FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-164
Wednesday
24 August 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-164 *24 August 1988*

CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 August Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Secretary General on London Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 16 Aug]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Newspaper Reports Israeli Plot To Kill 'Arafat *[KUNA]* 3
PLO Executive Committee, PNC End Meetings *[KUNA]* 3
Various Issues Discussed *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 4
PLO To Convene 25 Aug *[MAP]* 4
Syria Said To Prevent 'Abd Rabbuh's Departure *[Beirut Voice of Lebanon]* 4
'Text' of 'Arafat Decision on West Bank Issued *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 4
'Arafat, Italy's Craxi Meet, Talk in Tunis *[Rome ANSA]* 5
Popular Committees Issue 'Uprising' Call No 24 *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 5
PLO Official Cited on 'Uprising' Death Toll *[INA]* 7
Toll Updated *[INA]* 7
PFLP-GC Condemns Salah Khalaf Statements *[Damascus]* 8
Al-Quds Carries Jibril REUTER Interview 8

OPEC Affairs

Subroto Rules Out Extraordinary Session *[KUNA]* 12

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

Lassou Leaves for Tunis With Habre Message 13
Libyan Mistreatment of Chadians Charged 13
Floods in Ndjamena Kill 2, Destroy Houses 13

Egypt

Libya, Cairo Reportedly To Resume Ties 'Soon' *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 21 Aug]* 13
Ghali Denounces South African Policy on Namibia 14
Interior Minister Badr on Prisons, Terrorism *[AL-MUSAWWAR 19 Aug]* 14
Israel's 'Oppressive' Measures Criticized *[AL-AKHBAR 21 Aug]* 18

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Host PLO Government *[KUNA]* 18
Al-Qadhdhafi Proposes Nonaligned Defense Force *[KUNA]* 19

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Addresses Constituent Assembly 22 Aug 19
Khartoum Imposes Restrictions on Media *[MENA]* 21
Abu Salih Views Domestic, International Issues *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 13 Aug]* 21
Khartoum Mayor Issues Order on Law Violations 22

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Receives PLO Delegation 23
Tunis Offers To Host Egypt-Libya-Algeria Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 15 Aug]* 23
President Ben Ali To Visit France 12-14 Sep 24

ARABIAN PENINSULA

PDRY

Cuban Interior Ministry Delegation Arrives 25
Cooperation Agreement Signed 25
Party Officials Talk With CPSU's Brutents 25
Brutents Departs 25
Al-Bid Receives Sudanese Envoy, Al-Mahdi Letter 26

United Arab Emirates

King Husayn Arrives, Meets With President 26
Discusses Arab Issues, Ties *[Amman]* 26
Holds 'Private Meeting,' Leaves 26
Somali Prime Minister Arrives for Talks 26

Yemen Arab Republic

Interior Ministry Delegation To Visit Moscow 26
Officials Receive Syrian Economy Minister 26
Libyan Trade Official Arrives in Sanaa 27
Meets Prime Minister 27
Discusses Economic Relations 27

IRAQ

Foreign Ministry on Cease-Fire 'Violation' 29
Foreign Minister Heads Delegation to Geneva Talks 29
Ambassador to U.S. Interviewed on Talks at UN *[London AL-MAJALLAH 17-23 Aug]* 29
Saddam Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat Discuss Arab Issues 31
Sudanese State Minister Arrives, Meets Officials 31
Talks With Ramadan 31
Delivers Messages to President 31
Concludes Visit, Departs 32
Government Releases Food, Commodities to People 32
Paper Warns Against 'Any Attempt To Save' Iran 32
Paper Urges Iran To Stop 'Rattling Firearms' 32

ISRAEL

PLO Claims Responsibility for Haifa Attack *[AFP]* 34
Bomb Safely Defused in Tel Aviv 24 Aug 34
'Arafat Remarks Cause No Change in Funds Policy 34
Territories Chief on Payment 34
Peres Briefs Foreign Affairs, Defense Committee 34
More on Peres Remarks 35
Shamir Sends Congratulations to Ceausescu *[HATZOFE 24 Aug]* 35
Rabin Urges Focus on Northern Border Security 35
El Al Flights to South Africa Opposed *[HA'ARETZ 23 Aug]* 35
Turkish Ship Smuggling Drugs Intercepted 36
Members of Crew Identified *[Ankara ANATOLIA]* 36
Navy Commander on Moves Against Terrorists, Drugs 36
Comments on Missile Procurement 36
IDF Policy on Searches in Mosques Explained *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Aug]* 37

Foreign Ministry Says Deportations Legal 38
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 38
West Bank Associations Closed 38
'Calm' in Territories 38
5 Abu Nidal Men Held *[MA'ARIV 24 Aug]* 38
General Strike in West Bank 38
'Terror Cells' Uncovered 39
345 Dead in 'Uprising' *[HA'OLAM HAZE 24 Aug]* 39
Rabin Says IDF Qezi'ot Actions 'Within Law' 40
Rabin: Sharon Plan Undermines Likud Position 40
Shamir, Peres Speak to Respective Party Groups 40
Herut, Liberals Differ Over Merger Conditions 40
Moledet Movement Opens Election Campaign 40
'Secret' Likud Poll Shows 6-7 Seats for Kakh *[HADASHOT 22 Aug]* 41
Hamas' Organization History, Trends Outlined *[HA'ARETZ 23 Aug]* 41
Salah Khalaf Statement Said 'Far Reaching' *[DAVAR 24 Aug]* 42
Poll Shows Unrest's Affect on Public Opinion *[MA'ARIV 24 Aug]* 42

JORDAN

Cables Mark Anniversary of Ties With USSR *[JORDAN TIMES 20 Aug]* 43
Celebration Marks Anniversary 43
Agreement Signed on Al-Wahdah Dam Tunnel 43
Consortium Wins Contract *[JORDAN TIMES 22 Aug]* 44
King Receives Brunei Religious Affairs Minister 44
Cabinet Endorses Qatanani Appointment *[JORDAN TIMES 21 Aug]* 44
Industry Minister Confers With USSR Delegation 45
Industry Minister Describes Economic Measures *[AL-DUSTUR 20 Aug]* 45
TIMES on Foreign Exchange Regulations *[24 Aug]* 46

LEBANON

'Nationalist Parties' Seek Reconciliation 48
Birri on Carlton Meeting, Elections, U.S. *[Damascus TV]* 48
Carlton Meeting Labeled 'Cheap Gimmick' *[RFL]* 49
Al-Huss in Damascus in Bid To End Election Crisis 49
Amal Arrests Israeli Intelligence Network 49

SYRIA

Commentary Views Lebanese Elections 'Impasse' 50
TISHRIN Cited on Lebanese Elections 50
Paper Views U.S. Policy on Middle East, Israel 51
Briefs 51
Departing GDR Ambassador 51

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Islamabad Details Mujahidin Attacks 52
Khvajeh Ghar Said Captured 52
IRNA Report on Mujahidin Successes 52
BAKHTAR Says 'Extremists' Crushed, Arms Seized 52
Kabul Notes Strikes 52
'Extremists' Kill Two in Attack on Gardeyz 53
Afghan Envoy Holds News Conference in Prague *[Prague RUDE PRAVO 18 Aug]* 53
Tanay Conveys Najibullah Mesage to Soldiers 54
Foreign Minister Attends Meeting in Norway 54
News Conference on Joint Soviet Space Flight 54

India

Restrictions Imposed in Srinagar After Violence 55
Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Arrives in New Delhi 55
Meets With Narasimha Rao 55
Holds Talks With Gandhi 55
Editorial on Generals' Role After Ziaul Haq *[INDIAN EXPRESS 19 Aug]* 55
Briefs 56
Trivandrum-Cochin TV Link 56

Iran

Velayati Cables UN Chief on Iraqi Intentions 56
UN Team Reports No Troop Movement Against Iraq 57
Jovic Describes Situation 57
Khamene'i Inspects Arvand River Positions 57
Ceremony Held in Khomeyni's Presence 58
UN Condemnation of Iraqi CW Use Expected 58
Earthquake Registered Near Garmsar 58

Pakistan

11 Afghan Refugees Killed in Mine Blast *[Delhi]* 58
BBC Reports Threat to Benazir Bhutto's Life 58
Preliminary Investigation Into Ziaul Haq's Death *[Delhi]* 59
Justice Minister on Role of Ghulam Ishaq Khan *[DAWN 19 Aug]* 59
Senate To Hold 3-Week Session From 1 Sep 59

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Says '90 Percent' of Peace Achieved 59
7 IPKF Soldiers Injured by Explosive Device 60
'Sharp Drop' in Security Force Casualties Noted 60

24 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2408113688 [Editorial Report]

Palestinian Affairs

The PLO will assume "full responsibility" for Palestinian civil servants in the West Bank, according to a "decision" on the PLO's administration of the occupied territories issued by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and carried by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio.

According to the decision, "laws, regulations, and decisions" that were in force when Jordan severed its West Bank ties "will continue to be valid."

The PLO Executive Committee will meet 25 August to set the date and venue of the upcoming PNC session, according to a Palestine news agency WAFA report cited by MAP.

The Cairo newspaper AL-SHA'B "unveiled" an "Israeli military intelligence" hatched "plot to assassinate" 'Arafat "before the upcoming PNC session," KUNA revealed.

High-ranking Israeli officials, including Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, were implicated, the newspaper indicated.

Lebanon

A "prominent" Hizballah official said hostage William Higgins was not on a "humanitarian mission" when he was taken and "had been spying on Hizballah," AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI reported. "Scholar" 'Abbas al-Musawi said Higgins' activities were part of a "plot" hatched against southern Lebanon and denounced the UN Security Council for giving its "agents" a "free hand" to attack the dignity of the Lebanese people in its name.

The nationalist parties issued a statement declaring they will take "all political and practical measures" to prevent the presidential election "before reconciliation is attained," Beirut radio disclosed.

A Lebanese Forces spokesman called the statement a "cheap gimmick" and a Syrian attempt to "obstruct" the election, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said.

Amal Movement and Hizballah forces clashed during a "huge demonstration" in Ba'labakk, the radio reported.

Amal claimed to have planted a "highly explosive device" that exploded at the Al-Mansuri and Al-Burj positions as an "enemy" patrol passed, Beirut radio stated.

The Amal Movement's southern Lebanon branch "arrested" five members of a "network of agents" working for Israeli intelligence who confessed to "bombing, assassinations, and other acts," the radio disclosed.

Israel

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will send former minister Abba Eban on a "information campaign" in Europe to "provide a balance" for the "rather intensive" campaign "underway by the PLO," Jerusalem radio revealed.

Three "associations" in Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm were closed for "extensive activities aimed at promoting the goals of terrorist organizations," IDF radio reported.

The U.S. consul general in East Jerusalem denied rumors that he met "secretly" with "Palestinian personalities from the territories" in an attempt to persuade them to negotiate with Israel, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraq has alerted the UN observers team to "another" Iranian cease-fire violation in the IV Corps area, according to a statement by a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Baghdad radio.

After "persistent efforts" by the UN team to make the Iranians "return to their previous positions," Iraq was "forced" to take "required measures" to "restore the situation to normal," the statment said.

The commander of the UN observers team in Iran "categorically refuted" the reports that Iran made "any movement" toward Iraqi territory, IRNA reported. In a message to his Baghdad counterpart, the commander said "so far no attack had been launched" by Iranian troops, IRNA added.

The seven-country Arab League committee established to follow the "developments" of the war met in Beijing with the PRC Foreign Minister and other officials, according to INA and XINHUA.

YAR

The Armed Forces have "recently obtained" Soviet long-range SS-21 missiles, according to a report in the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD cited by WAKH. "Western military sources" told the paper that the Armed Forces also received "not less than four" missile launching pads, WAKH added.

Sudan

Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in an address to the Constituent Assembly carried by Omdurman television, said the distribution of flood aid suffered from "clear administrative and technical shortcomings" and "legitimate questions" concerning responsibility must be answered.

He described "angry and spontaneous" public demonstrations as an "understandable" expression of "exasperation" with the government's inability to fulfill the peoples' "daily needs."

However, he criticized the media for its "campaign of fabrications and exaggeration" about the situation inside the country. Discussing the security situation, Al-Mahdi said a group of 2,000 armed Chadian followers of opposition leader Acheikh ibn Oumar in Darfur "must surrender their weapons" if they want to stay in Sudan as "refugees" until their "problems" with Chad can be mediated.

Foreign journalists may not travel through the country unless accompanied by a Culture and Information Ministry official and must submit "pictures and recordings" to the ministry to be "checked and approved," according to a ministry spokesman cited by MENA.

The spokesman said the restrictions were imposed because Western reporters have "exploited" Sudan's "emergency circumstances" to disseminate "rumors and false news" that "undermined confidence" in and "cast doubt" on those responsible for aid distribution, MENA added.

Afghanistan

A USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman said Western reports that Soviet citizens were killed when a mujahidin rocket exploded a supply of fuel at the Kelagay military base "do not correspond to fact," TASS reported.

"At least 109" Soviet soldiers were killed in the blast, according to "Western diplomats" cited by AFP.

The sources added that Soviet troops returned to Konduz during the Afghan Army operation to recapture the city and that Soviet planes based in the USSR have conducted daily raids on Konduz.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Secretary General on London Talks

PM2308094288 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Aug 88 pp 1,2

[Zaki Musa report: "Klibi: International Guarantees Necessary for Lasting Peace"]

[Excerpts] London from Zaki Musa, Tehran, agencies—The UN delegation returned to Tehran yesterday after inspecting the Iraq-Iran war front in preparation for the arrival of the peacekeeing force which will take its position within days to monitor the cease-fire. [passage omitted]

In London, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has described his meeting with Mrs Lynda Chalker, minister of state at the British Foreign Office, yesterday morning as an opportunity for him to explain the Arab viewpoint on peace in the Gulf, pointing out it must a real and lasting peace.

Answering questions put to him by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Klibi, who was leading a delegation including Jordanian Ambassador Albert Butrus, Iraqi Ambassador Muhammad al-Mushat, Tunisian Permanent Representative at the Arab League Salah al-Din 'Abdallah, and the Arab League Office Director in Britain Asa'd al-Muqaddam, said:

We, as Arab states, support fraternal Iraq in all its efforts to establish peace that would restore security, stability, and amity and friendship between the Arab nation and the Iranian people whom we regard as Muslim brothers." [passage omitted]

Asked if the delegation of the seven-member committee in charge of following up Gulf war developments discussed the question of international guarantees that would prevent renewal of the war, the Arab League secretary general said that "the agreement that will be born of the Iraq-Iran negotiations under UN supervision must have international guarantees, at least by the five permanent members of the Security Council."

He said that in the British minister's view the cease-fire should be seen not as a temporary truce after which the war would be renewed but as a step toward real, durable, and comprehensive peace covering all domains and intentions.

Klibi described the British position on Arab issues on the basis of "what we heard today" as "a good, positive, and reliable position." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Newspaper Reports Israeli Plot To Kill 'Arafat

LD2308110988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1028 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Cairo, Aug 23 (KUNA)—An Egyptian daily Tuesday unveiled a plot to assassinate the PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat before the convocation of the forthcoming Palestine National Council session.

Quoting reliable Arab source, "AL-SHA'B" newspaper said the Israeli military intelligence apparatus was entrusted with assassinating 'Arafat before the upcoming PNC session, due to commence in Algiers next month.

The sources pointed out that a meeting comprising Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir, Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon, director of the premier's office Abraham Tamir and head of the military intelligence apparatus was held recently to this end.

In case the plot fails, the Israeli intelligence service will "launch an effective hit to the Palestinian revolution" in Lebanon during the coming few weeks, the sources said.

The third alternative is to assassinate a number of Palestinian leaders that steer the popular uprising, the paper reported, quoting the sources.

The assassination plot is code-named "The Best Hit", the paper added.

PLO Executive Committee, PNC End Meetings

LD2208162888 Kuwait KUNA in English 1350 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Tunisia, Aug 22 (KUNA)—The PLO's Executive Committee headed by its chairman Yasir 'Arafat last night ended two-day meetings here, sources said.

A Palestinian source told KUNA that the meetings which was also participate by the chairman of the Palestine National Council Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih discussed various vital issues concerning the Palestinian cause.

The Executive Committee reviewed a report provided by the Palestinian delegation headed by one of its member, Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu Mazin), who recently visited Jordan and Egypt.

The committee also reviewed a report presented by the PLO's legal and adminstrative committee headed by Faruq Qaddumi. The report dealt with Jordan's decision of relinguishment from the West Bank and reactions to such move and the latest developments.

The committee looked upon the Israeli move against the deportation and detention of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, in the prospects next meeting [as received] for Palestine National Council, the informed source said the council will decide accordingly on (?this) coming meeting late this month.

Various Issues Discussed

JN2208183588 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1738 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Under the chairmanship of brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee and the PNC chairmanship ended their joint session in Tunis last night. The meetings lasted 3 days, during which various issues and developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas were discussed.

The PLO Executive Committee voiced its satisfaction with the report submitted by the PLO Executive Committee delegation that visited Jordan and Egypt. The PLO Executive Committee reviewed the preliminary memorandum that the political and legal committee has prepared on the latest developments following the Jordanian decision to disengage administrative and legal links with the West Bank.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed the latest developments in the occupied homeland in light of the escalation of the heroic and great uprising in the face of the occupation, the increase in the Zionist enemy's repressive measures, and the deportation of the sons of our Palestinian people. In this respect, the PLO Executive Committee made a series of decisions dealing with moves in the international arena to halt these arbitrary deportation measures.

PLO To Convene 25 Aug

LD2308130288 Rabat MAP in English 1211 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tunis (MAP)—The PLO Executive Committee will convene again on August 25 in Tunis to fix the date and venue of the upcoming session of the Palestinian National Council (PNC-parliament in exile), the Palestinian news agency "WAFA" reported on Monday.

The agency said in the meantime, the PLO will continue consultations with Arab states to prepare the favourable conditions for the next stage in the Palestinian struggle.

During its just-concluded session (Sunday night), the PLO Executive Committee had discussed the preliminary report prepared by the Political and Juridical Commission on the repercussions of the Jordanian decision to dissolve legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank.

It also heard the report of the Palestinian delegation which has just visited Jordan and Egypt. The Executive Committee qualified the outcome of these visits as "positive", "WAFA" said.

The evolution of the situation in the occupied territories and the intensification of the uprising there as well as Israeli repressive measures, mainly the deportation of Palestinians from the territories towards Lebanon, were also examined, "WAFA" further said.

Syria Said To Prevent 'Abd Rabbuh's Departure

NC2208203788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] A PLO official has accused the Syrian Government of preventing PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh from leaving Damascus for Tunis in order to participate in the Executive Committee's activities in Tunis over the past 2 days.

'Text' of 'Arafat Decision on West Bank Issued

JN2308170188 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1618 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] O brothers, o masses of our great Palestinian people, o brave knights of the uprising, o heroic Palestinians, who are marching on the path of glory, victory, freedom, and independence: The following is the text of the decision made by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, on the legal and administrative status of the occupied Palestinian territory in the wake of the decision made by the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the occupied West Bank:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Decision:

In accordance with the prerogatives entrusted to him, in light of the higher national interests, and taking cognizance of the PLO Executive Committee's decision dated 21 August 1988, corresponding to 9 Muharram 1409 hegira, in the wake of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's decision to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank and the measures taken by Jordan, the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee decides the following:

1. Laws, regulations, and decisions which were in force in the occupied Palestinian territories until 31 July 1988 will continue to be valid until they are amended or canceled by the competent Palestinian legislative authorities.

2. The employees working in the public departments and institutions in the occupied Palestinian territories and who were affected by the recent Jordanian measures will remain at the head of their posts.

3. The PLO will assume full responsibility toward the employees and workers who are affected by this decision in accordance with their rights and on the basis of the regulations and charters of their appointment.

Signed: Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee

Dated: 23 August 1988, corresponding to 11 Muharram 1409 hegira.

'Arafat, Italy's Craxi Meet, Talk in Tunis

AU2308085688 Rome ANSA in English 0814 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] (ANSA) Tunis—Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat discussed the struggle of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip territories to end the Israeli military occupation of these lands and the goals pursued by the PLO in a meeting here Monday with the head of the Italian Socialist Party, Bettino Craxi.

'Arafat thanked the socialist secretary for the attention his party and a vast area of the nation' s democratic forces devote to the Palestinian question and for the commitment in Italy to solidarity with the Palestinians and to search for peaceful and negotiated solution.

A source close to the talk in Tunis said that the PLO chairman reiterated the view that peace in the region is to be achieved thorugh negotiations with Israel in the framework of an international Mideast peace conference held under the aegis of the United Nations, to lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the territories now militarily occupied by Israel. 'Arafat said these were the basic objectives of his organisation.

He went on to refer to the seriousness of the conditions in which the Palestinians are now living and the great sacrifices of these people in the occupied territories to bring this occupation, which dates back to June 1967, to an end and affirm their own independence.

He also focused on the dramatic situation in these territories involving a death toll of more than 250 people since the uprising began in December, thousands of persons wounded, tens of thousands detained in concentration camps and others deported.

Faced with the drama in which an entire population has been transformed into a protagonist, 'Arafat said, the PLO hopes for a higher level of solidarity from the international community, extending to interventions in the humanitarian area. In this connection, Italy was asked to directly intervene with stepped up solidarity and new efforts.

Craxi, this source said, confirmed his own commitment in this direction and said he was certain of wide general agreement in Italy and internationally that the understanding of the gravity of the situation of the Palestinians is spreading and becoming clearer.

The socialist leader also voiced the view that conditions created in the occupied territories as regards human rights are, juridically, absolutely intolerable.

Speaking from a political point of view, he said that as a result of the new situation arising with the decision announced by the Kingdom of Jordan, it will be necessary to begin preparation of a new political process aimed at clearing the way for negotiations and peace.

Along these lines, Craxi recalled his earlier meeting with PLO authorities and said he saw as positive the formation of a provisional government and encouraged this step. He also stressed the great importance of the project of confederation with Jordan which would represent the union of two independent states and the drafting of a peace process on the basis of direct negotiations with Israel in a framework of international guarantees.

The Italian socialist said that in this connection Europe could bring an active and productive contribution to preparations for peace, security and the respect for the human rights of all the peoples and states in the region.

For their meeting here, 'Arafat was accompanied by Faruq Qaddumi, the PLO "Foreign Minister" in his position as head of the political office, and other aides, and Craxi was flanked by the secretary of the Socialist Youth Federation, Michele Svidercoschi [name as received] and others.

Popular Committees Issue 'Uprising' Call No 24

JN2208170088 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1425 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] No voice rises above that of the uprising; no voice rises above that of the people of Palestine. Brothers: Here are the most important points of Call No 24—the call of the martyrs of the uprising behind bars, issued by the popular and nationalist committees.

The uprising will carry on until national independence in the face of all challenges.

Masses of the giant uprising: Your uprising is tirelessly entering its 36th week with full momentum and generosity, declaring to the whole world that there is no going back on our people's accomplishments on the road to the establishment of an independent state on our national soil.

Our people: In an attempt to quell the uprising, extinguish its mounting flames, and rein it in, and in light of the key role of the popular committees in solidifying the independent authority of the people and dismantling that of the occupation, the terrorist Rabin and his fascist government made a law warning the popular committees and threatening their members with imprisonment and banishment. The popular committees are innovations of our people after the uprising and natural outgrowths of their struggle.

If Rabin thinks that mass expulsions and long prison sentences can kill the uprising, he is facing a disappointment. Just as our people aborted his decision banning the popular committees and shutting down corporations, societies, and unions, so will they abort this decision. Our people's response will be decisive and clear. It will be to set up additional committees in all the villages, camps, cities, and neighborhoods; our entire people are popular committees. They are their lungs, which they will never relinquish.

Rabin's expulsion of a number of our people's cadres on the plea of their membership and leadership of popular committees is but an application of the transfer [preceding word in English] policy, previously proposed by fascist political parties. Does Rabin think that this policy will extinguish the torch of the uprising? For every banished struggler, dozens will appear. Just as banishments failed in the past, so will they fail this time. Indeed, our people's response will be to intensify the uprising, stoke its fires, and develop it.

Our people, strugglers who have experienced the bitterness of expulsion orders, know that their stay outside the homeland will not be long and that the day is not far off when they will return to their homeland and an independent Palestinian state, whose outlines are on the horizon. The whole world now realizes more than ever before the importance of settling regional conflicts. Just as the racist occupiers were defeated, so will the occupiers be kicked out of our land so we can build our independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

Our striving people, our people in the valiant Gaza Strip: The occupation authorities' recourse to a curfew on the entire Gaza Strip and a ban on journalists and reporters from the area are but failed attempts to extinguish the fires of the uprising in its first den. Our people's response in the Strip was resolute, with thousands of Gazans turning out to confront the machines of the occupiers with their bodies and denounce the crime against three of our laborers. The world has learned about what is happening in the closed Gaza Strip in defiance of the occupiers. This reponse of yours is a true example of disobeying the orders of the occupiers and a prelude to total civil disobedience.

Our people in Ansar and all the Zionist detention centers: The glory is yours. You are raising defiance armed with nothing except your faith in your people and their just cause. The glory is to the martyrs of the uprising behind bars—the two martyrs of Ansar-3 and the two martyrs of torture in the cells of Al-Maskubiyah and Al-Zahiriyah. The enemy's recourse to rounding up strugglers unveils the hysteria that grips it in the face of the mounting uprising. Your people in the occupied homeland—the large prison—and in the diaspora are firmly convinced that you will pursue confrontation of the plans of liquidation and humiliation being practiced against you. Yours is part of your people's struggle for their legitimate rights and national independence.

Free people of the world: In the name of our people under curfews and in prisons, the bereaved, children, women, and the elderly who are suffering from the repressive measures of occupation, the command of the uprising's popular and nationalist committees appeals to world public opinion and all human rights groups to stand alongside our striving people and bring pressure to bear on the Zionist authorities to halt mass expulsions, shut down the desert Ansar detention center, and release more than 3,000 Palestinian strugglers held in this facility, which is very much like a Nazi concentration camp.

The command of the popular and nationalist committees warns the Zionist man in the street against the consequences of the policy of oppression and repression espoused by Shamir, Rabin, and Peres against our Palestinian people. This policy will bring you harm if it continues.

Our masses behind the green line: The command of the popular and nationalist committees of the uprising appeals to you once again to set aside your marginal differences, halt information campaigns, and close ranks to confront the policy of repressing and smothering the Palestinian Arab identity, pursued by the Zionist authorities. It further calls on you to abort the feverish reactionary efforts against your leaders.

Our valiant masses: The command of the popular and nationalist committees of the uprising—as it salutes our striving masses in Tulkarm, Qabatiyah, 'Azzun, Till, Barqah, Nabulus, Kafr Malik, Al-Jalazun, Al-Am'ari, Balatah, Qalandiya, Al-Duhayshah, Bethlehem, Bayt Jala, Bayt Sahur, Bani Nu'aym, Al-Zahiriyah, Al-'Arrub, Al-Fawwar, and all the camps and our people's population centers in the heroic strip—likewise bows in awe and respect for the martyrs of the uprising behind bars.

It appeals to our people to emphasize the following constants in the daily struggle:

—Popular education: The leadership of the popular and national committees of the uprising urges all secondary school and university teachers and students to be recruited to render the popular education campaign a success on 1 September, particularly the education of the elementary classes. It also urges them to foil the authority's policy of closing down schools and depriving our sons of education. Popular education is a national responsibility to which everyone should adhere.

—Tendentious rumors and statements: The leadership of the popular and national committees of the uprising appeals to our people to abide by its central calls issued in the territories and to be cautious against tendentious statements. In this regard, we warn against the enemy's attempts to sow discord between the national and religious forces as recently happened in the Gaza Strip when the enemy tried to set fire to a car belonging to a person from the Islamic complex [Al-Mujamma' al-Islami].

We also warn against defaming the honorable citizens and fabricating family differences in the name of the national cause as happened in the Gaza Strip and Tulkarm. We also ask our people to guard their property and be cautious against the thieves sent by the enemy in a futile attempt to convince our people of the need for a police apparatus.

—National agricultural products: We stress the need to boycott Zionist agricultural products and purchase national agricultural products only. Greengrocers and sidewalk vendors should also abide by these instructions.

— Winter crops: The leadership of the popular and national committees of the uprising appeals to all our masses to continue promoting and reclaiming the land in preparation for the coming winter and also to plant on this land cereals and legumes such as lentils, chickpeas, broad beans, garlic, wheat, and other crops that can be stored.

—Medical treatment charges: We ask our private hospitals and doctors to take into account the difficult situation our people are experiencing by reducing fees for medical treatment by a tangible percentage.

—Positive initiatives: The leadership of the popular and national committees of the uprising lauds the numerous positive initiatives by the popular and national committees in the territories in a way that conforms with the program of escalating the uprising, such as declaring the car strike in the Gaza Strip and distributing forms among merchants in their shops to count the Zionist goods to support our people in boycotting these goods. Another example is the distribution of treatment cards among the afflicted families in Hebron so that they can receive medical treatment at reduced fees.

O our revolutionary masses, the leadership of the popular and national committees of the uprising, while taking pride in the growing spirit of confrontation enjoyed by our masses as well as the successive attacks carried out by the strike forces against the enemy's forces, apparatus, and settlers, urges the masses of the uprising to promote their confrontation of the Zionist presence and carry out the following militant priorities:

—23 August will be a day for deportees, a day of Molotov cocktails. On this day, our masses will rise up in denunciation of the deportation policy.

—24 and 25 August will be days for comprehensive strikes in honor of the anniversary of the uprising's martyrs behind bars.

—26 August, the anniversary of the 1929 Al-Buraq uprising, we ask our masses to mark this anniversary by various militant activities.

—On 27 August the strike forces will deal blows to those who were asked to resign, but have not yet done so.

—On 30 August a comprehensive strike will be observed in solidarity with the deportees.

—On 31 August a comprehensive strike will be observed to protest the burning by the fascists of three of our Palestinian workers in Tel Aviv.

—On 1 September detainees will stage a hunger strike to protest the conditions of their arres.. Our masses will also stage sit-ins at the headquarters of international bodies.

—The 1st week of September will be a week for the popular committees devoted to promoting them and forming more of them.

—Fridays and Sundays will be devoted to prayers for the souls of the uprising's martyrs.

Further unity, solidarity, and escalation on the path of our people's victorious uprising until national independence is realized. God is with us and victory is close. Let us proceed together on the path of liberating land and man.

PLO Official Cited on 'Uprising' Death Toll

JN2208145288 Baghdad INA in English 1419 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 22, INA—The number of martyrs of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied land rose today to hit the figure 429, a Palestinian official announced.

Mr. Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser of chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), commenting on the escalation by the Zionist occupation troops of campaigns of murder and oppression in the occupied territories, told INA today that this escalation was an indicator of the fact that Zionist troops lost their nerves in front of the popular revolution prevailing in the whole of occupied Palestine.

It is to be noted that the Zionist troops yesterday and today opened fire on Palestinian nationals, killing one and critically injuring several others.

Toll Updated

JN2308161788 Baghdad INA in English 1600 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 23, INA—Mr. Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat accused Zionist occupation troops with spraying Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip with chemicals and bullets causing the injury of scores of them.

In a statement to INA, Mr. Abu Sharif called upon the world community and its bodies particularly the United Nations and Security Council to bear their responsibilities toward collective crimes perpetrated by the Zionist enemy against the valiant Palestinian people.

He said that Zionist occupation troops being impotent to strike the Palestinian uprising intensified their oppressive drives over the past 10 days, in Gaza Strip with the object of intimidating the Palestinian people.

Mr. Abu Sharif added that number of martyrs, fell in defence of national independence and liberty since the outbreak of the uprising and until today reached 432 martyrs while the number of those injured increased to 23,000. The number of Palestinians detained reached 30,000, he pointed out.

Mr. Abu Sharif said that decision of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is carrying on resistance of the Zionist occupation until its termination. He said that the racial fascist violence would not stop the Palestinian people from resisting occupation.

He urged the International Red Cross and other social, political and human organizations to urgently move for triumphing the Palestinian people and countering the Zionist racial terrorism.

PFLP-GC Condemns Salah Khalaf Statements

JN2308155988 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus—The PFLP-GC has condemned the statements recently made by Salah Khalaf and said that these statements are a prelude to relinquishing and forfeiting the national and historic rights of the Palestinian Arab people by negotiating with the Zionist enemy.

In a statement issued today at the end of the meeting of its Central Committee, the PFLP-GC said: While condemning and denouncing the statements made by Salah Khalaf, 'Arafat, and Abu Sharif in this regard, we warn against the measures sought to be taken, especially those regarding holding negotiations with and recognizing the Zionist enemy.

The statement said that the Front's Central Committee perused for a long time the latest Jordanian measures which severed the links with the occupied West Bank and concluded that these measures foil the schemes to carry out the alternative homeland conspiracy.

The statement added that the PFLP-GC believes that the preparations for holding a PNC session seek to prepare a Palestinian party to negotiate with the Zionist enemy, to recognize it, and to relinquish and forfeit the national and historic rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The statement affirmed that the PFLP-GC will confront all these conspiracies which seek to liquidate the Palestine question and the jihad being waged by the uprising in the occupied territories.

The Front valued the continuation of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and voiced its confidence that the masses of the sweeping revolution in the occupied territories will confront all the conspiracies and the conspirators who seek to abort this revolution and liquidate the cause. It also called for supporting this uprising with all means.

The statement also touched on the situation in Lebanon and said that the conspiracy being hatched by Israel and its agents against the Lebanese people is continuing. It also valued Syria's pan-Arab role in Lebanon, which seeks to end Lebanon's tribulations. It also asserted the PFLP-GC's confidence in the pioneering Syrian role in helping the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces end their tribulations and restore Lebanon to the course of stability and security.

Al-Quds Carries Jibril REUTER Interview

JN2308162988 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 22 Aug 88

["Text" of interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC, by unidentified REUTER correspondent; date, place not given]

[Text] Question: Yasir 'Arafat and his collaborators are holding contacts, making moves, and issuing various statements in the name of the PLO indicating that the PLO is ready to negotiate with Israel and to hold direct talks with its officials. What is the PFLP-GC's stand on all of these actions?

Answer: We in the PGLP-GC maintain a clear and frank stand on the subject of the Arab-Zionist conflict. We have not changed this stand since we began our organizational work over a quarter of a century ago. In our opinion, Yasir 'Arafat and his collaborators are pursuing a course which will have serious consequences. Nobody has the right to abandon the national and pan-Arab rights. Therefore, neither 'Arafat nor anyone else has the right to express a readiness to recognize the Zionist entity over more than 85 percent of Palestinian territory.

The Palestinian people have not empowered him to undertake such a matter. Our people have chosen to have a leadership that adheres to liberation through the PLO Charter. In the circumstances of their demographic distribution, the Palestinian people cannot hold a referendum on the question: Would you give up 85 percent of your land? We know in advance what the outcome of such a referendum would be. This outcome is now represented by the blessed uprising. Therefore, what

'Arafat and his collaborators are doing is a gross violation of our struggle objectives, the PLO Charter, and the National Council resolutions which have been passed unanimously.

I believe our Palestinian people, who have fought for 70 years since the Balfour Declaration and offered tens, and in fact, hundreds of thousands of victims for the sake of regaining their homeland, cannot under any circumstances sell their homeland the way 'Arafat desires. Our people believe their struggle with Zionism is a struggle of destiny, not a dispute over borders. We in the PFLP-GC believe we truly express our people's aspirations and aims. Therefore, we will not permit 'Arafat or anyone else to tamper with this important matter. We will not be short of the means to put a limit to 'Arafat and those behind him.

Question: Comrade Jibril, it seems you adhere to the Palestinian National Charter, while Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] recently called for the formation of a provisional government, rather than a government-in-exile, whose political program would be to essentially move away from the PLO National Charter. There are also voices which say the PLO National Charter is no longer feasible historically. What is your answer to that?

Answer: First, the voices which sometimes call for a provisional government and sometimes for a government-in-exile are not new. The new thing is what has happened recently; namely, the West Bank's disengagement from Jordan. The PLO has considered this move an opportunity to express its capitulationist line. We say the PLO is the sole, legitimate representative of our Palestinian people. It assumed this responsibility when it adhered to the unanimous resolutions of our legitimate councils and the PLO Charter which we approved and rallied around in 1968. The charter is our common denominator.

I believe the PLO gained our people's respect through its charter. It also gained the respect of all the Arab states and more than 100 world nations. Everyone knows the PLO used to adhere to its charter. The PLO used to play the role of the provisional government. Its offices in the world are still treated as embassies and its chairman is treated as a head of state from the protocol viewpoint. The PLO also has a budget that exceeds the budgets of many Arab states to the extent that it gives loans, grants, and aid to some nations in Asia and Africa.

The PLO does not lack anything which a provisional government may have. Therefore, the question is: Why is it that in the past they adhered to the PLO and now they hint at forming a provisional government or a government-in-exile? We believe such a government will only have one duty; namely, to abandon the Palestinian people's national and pan-Arab rights and to tear up the National Charter which we agreed on within the PLO. What Salah Khalaf has said actually means the dissolution of the PLO.

In other words, he is saying in one way or another there is no longer any justification for its existence. They are also deceiving our people by claiming the PLO would remain alongside the government. In this respect, we say the statements by 'Arafat, Bassam Abu Sharif, and Salah Khalaf have cancelled the PLO. These statements wanted to replace the PLO with a provisional government or a government-in-exile so it could negotiate with the Zionist enemy and thus abandon the rights.

Before deciding to announce the provisional government or government-in-exile we should have first considered our situation in the Palestinian and Arab arena. A quick look will show such a step lacks certain basic conditions. Without the existence of such conditions, the call for a provisional government will not serve the objectives of our struggle but will lead to abandoning those objectives. The first of these conditions is the achievement of Palestinian national unity. Any knowledgeable person knows the divisions existing inside the Palestinian arena. The announcement of a provisional government needs another important condition; namely, appraising our capabilities and alliances with nationalist Arab states whose help will be needed in this difficult phase of our struggle.

We have boycotted the two PNC sessions which were held in Amman and Algiers and we have not taken part in the activities of the PLO Executive Committee for certain basic reasons relating to the future of our struggle. Some people might not consider our attitude to be correct when we talk about the situation in the Palestinian arena. But have we not also heard the criticisms being made in political statements and in the press by the very groups which sit with 'Arafat now in the Executive Committee?

Under the existing balances, we feel a provisional government or a government-in-exile, as they say, will only have one task; namely, to tear up the PLO Charter and to negotiate with the Zionist enemy through meetings in Cairo under the patronage of the United States. The aim of these meetings would be to obtain more concessions from the Palestinians and to further split the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied homeland. The sole aim of this government would be to recognize the Zionist enemy and to destroy the revolutionary uprising which has entered its 9th month.

Question: This means you will not take part in the coming PNC meetings whether in Algiers or Tunis?

Answer: Definitely. The resolutions which were adopted at the last Algiers session conflict with the resolutions of national unanimity which were adopted at previous PNC sessions. They also conflict in one way or another with the PLO Charter. We know full well that any new meeting will only have one purpose; namely, to give 'Arafat's leadership more flexibility which, in turn, would lead to abandoning the rights. We have asked and are still asking for a reshuffle of the PNC provided this is

based on a clear and unambiguous political and organizational program; a program based on the PLO Charter, which affirms and explains the concept of the conflict between us and the Zionist enemy, and on returning to the resolutions of national unanimity and the national councils.

After the outbreak of the blessed uprising, the martyrdom of strugggler Khalil al-Wazir, and the restoration of Syrian relations with 'Arafat, we hoped 'Arafat's leadership had studied and appraised their past experiences and had come out with ideas and conclusions different from those it upheld after the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in 1982. Unfortunately, however, we were surprised to learn 'Arafat did not want to come to an agreement with the Syrian brothers, but wanted to exploit this relationship to improve his position in the camp of the U.S. settlement. Thus, we find he regressed once again and strained relations with Syria and inside the Lebanese arena by fabricating the recent camps incidents in Sidon and Beirut.

Therefore, we are not optimistic and we do not trust the present formation of the PNC which met in Algiers. We believe this formation, whose term has expired, cannot oppose 'Arafat. How can a member oppose the one who appointed him to the council? We hope the PNC will not meet at this particular time so as not to become an additional burden on the uprising of our people in the occupied territory. It is not easy to expose one and a half million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza—and under the present difficult circumstances in particular—to the pressure of measures which would only further restrict the livelihood and free movement of our people and therefore threaten our people's economic and social situation.

The timing of the Jordanian move will give 'Arafat and his leadership the opportunity to make more concessions to the Zionist enemy, and, consequently, cover his new program of concessions.

Question: The occupation authorities have recently deported a large number of Palestinians. This step is inhuman and condemned by the Arab countries and the various countries of the world. Do you view as appropriate measures to stop such actions?

Answer: Unlike 'Arafat and his policy, we in the PFLP-GC are not looking for a mirage. We cannot beg a solution from our enemies. How can a victim beg his butcher? The aim of this enemy that occupies our homeland is clear; it wants the land without its inhabitants. Since 1948, the Zionist enemy has sought to deport by every means the Palestinian people from their land. The current deportations are part of this plan. Will it be enough for us to cry or denounce this? Will the enemy respond to our cries? Or will the U.S. Administration prevent the occupation authorities from deporting our people? We think that such cries and denouncement are a waste of time. This enemy understands only one language, the language of steel and fire, through which we can force it to stop its deportation policy.

We in the PFLP-GC have 25 years of experience with the enemy. We used to impose on it things that it would never accept even if the entire world appealed to it to accept. In the Al-Nawras operation in 1979, we forced the Zionist enemy to release a number of the revolution fighters from its prisons. That was the first operation of its kind. In May 1985, we forced the enemy to release 1150 strugglers in a prisoners exchange deal. Most of these freed prisoners were residents in Palestine territories, whether the part usurped in 1948 or the part usurped in 1967.

We forced the enemy to release these prisoners and let them live in their villages, towns, and camps in Palestine. This was not easy for the enemy. These freed people had the longest arm in stirring and leading the popular uprising in the occupied territories. The enemy has repeatedly said that its acceptance of this deal was killing and humiliating for it.

We see now that the deportees from the occupied territories are mostly among those freed in the Galilee operation, which we carried out in May 1985. This means that begging and 'Arafat's method are not useful with our enemy. When the enemy knows that the price of deportation will be catastrophic for it, it will not resort to it. Therefore, we in the PFLP-GC will not cry like others. But in the future, everybody will hear and see that this enemy will yield and repatriate all the deportees to their land, houses, and families.

Question: You accustomed the Palestinian and Arab masses to suicidal operations inside the occupied territories. Does this mean a sort of threat to the Israeli enemy that you will carry out other operations in the future?

Answer: We continue our struggle against the enemy by all means. I think the enemy has begun to feel the great role of the Front in leading the uprising inside the occupied homeland. The Front did not wish during the past stage to carry out operations that would distract attention away from the heroic uprising of our people. This does not mean, however, that we are not planning major and important operations against the enemy, especially if we feel that the uprising of our people needs this.

We in the Front carry out daily military operations inflicting losses on the enemy and easing pressure on the uprising in Palestine. As for the distinguished operations that the Front carried out in the past, we will carry out similar operations in the future when opportunities arise. We in the Front do not like to talk. We will let actions speak for themselves.

Question: Comrade Jibril, it is almost certain that the PFLP-GC has a long arm in the uprising inside the occupied territories. Do you think that the uprising will continue, especially since it has entered its 9th month? And will it escalate?

Answer: When the uprising was 1 month old, I was asked whether it would continue. My answer, in a press conference held in Tripoli, to which you may refer, was that the uprising opened a gap in the Zionist wall. This gap will widen every day and the enemy will not succeed in stopping or quelling it. As far as we are concerned, we are making modest efforts, together with the nationalist and Muslim forces, to insure the continuation of the uprising. We support it with all means at our disposal so that it may continue and ultimately lead to the removal of the Zionist occupation from the occupied territories without conditions of recognition and normalization. We have contributed to the course of the uprising.

First, through the Galilee operation in May 1985, we freed hundreds of hero leaders from the enemy's prisons and kept them inside Palestine to make the good news of the popular revolution we are witnessing.

Second, we carried out the Qibyah glider operation in 25-26 Novemebr 1987; that is, a few days before the uprising. We wanted to tell our people inside that the Zionist enemy is not a superman, and that he can be defeated and destroyed. We embodied that in the heroic operation of Qibyah, which is considered by friend and foe alike as the first spark of the uprising.

Third, we seriously contributed to the uprising itself through the struggle of our comrades inside and through securing some material support for it from outside.

Fourth, as the uprising began, we introduced the media voice that fanned the flames of the uprising, took its actions abroad, and linked the camps, villages, and towns to each other. The Al-Quds radio played and is still playing an important role in stepping up the popular uprising. This role is known to and appreciated by all nationalists in Palestine, so much so that they consider it the radio of the Palestinian people of all categories. Indeed, they consider it the political and spiritual guide of the urpising. Therefore, our enemy knew its danger, and began to jam it. We are currently conducting a scientific battle with the enemy in order to make sure that the voice of the Al-Quds radio reaches every camp, village, and town in Palestine.

Fifth, the PFLP-GC's clear stand vis-a-vis current and developing political issues, which takes its strength from the struggle of our people in the past, present, and future, and which is based on the PLO charter, should be mentioned. The Front's policy of building political alliances in Palestine between the nationalist and Islamic trends should also be mentioned. Our Front's policy of alliances with nationalist Arab regimes, especially Syria and Libya, had, and will have, an important effect on the continuation of our people's uprising.

Question: This is a question about the situation in Lebanon. The Lebanese interior minister has said that gunmen from eastern Beirut prevented deputies from arriving at the Chamber of Deputies to exercise their right to elect a new president. Do you think that such acts will lead to unrest and armed fighting in Lebanon?

Answer: As an Arab citizen, when I speak about what is going on in Lebanon, I do not consider this interference, but part of our pan-Arab struggle. What is currently hapening in Lebanon is a struggle between two clear trends. There are two alliances: The first alliance comprises the Lebanese nationalist forces, whether Muslims or Christians of all sects. Syria, the Palestinian nationalist and progressive forces, and all honorable men support this trend. The second alliance comprises the Phalangists and Lebanese Forces, and their alliance with 'Arafat. This trend is supported by Israel and the United States. We have evidence to prove this.

There is a fierce struggle between these two trends because they are based on conflicting political concepts. Therefore, there are many possibilities:

First, that a president supported by the nationalist trend is elected. This has not yet been possible to achieve.

Second, that a president supported by the second trend, which is backed the United States, the Lebanese Forces, the Phalangists, 'Arafat, and some Arab regimes, is elected. I think this trend cannot impose a president, as happened in 1982 when Bashir al-Jumayyil and then Amin al-Jumayyil climbed to the Presidency by means of Zionist tanks and NATO forces.

Third, that a colorless and tasteless president is agreed upon, as happened during President Sarkis' term; that is, a common denominator between the two trends. This is most likely. Candidates for such a position are well-known. But I think that such a president can do nothing for Lebanon, and that positions of strength will remain as they are until they are decided in favor of one side against the other. Choosing such a president means the continuation of disorder and instability in Lebanon.

Fourth, that a constitutional vaccum follow the establishment of two governments, one in eastern Beirut and the other in western Beirut. This will be followed by the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies and, consequently, by the eruption of the civil war once again. This possibility is weak. No party has an interest in this.

But as for us—the nationalist Palestinians—we are looking forward to electing a new Lebanese president who knows his pan-Arab responsibility, the bases of our struggle with the Zionist enemy, and that a pan-Arab

Lebanon cannot be established except through its nationalist programs and alliances, especially with Syria. We did not, and will not interfere in this game. Lebanon has enough players.

OPEC Affairs

Subroto Rules Out Extraordinary Session

LD2408094988 Kuwait KUNA in English 0904 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Vienna, Aug 24 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Subroto Wednesday ruled out the possibility of holding an extraordinary session for the cartel's ministerial conference before November. Speaking exclusively to KUNA, Subroto also reiterated anew that the ministerial committee entrusted with monitoring prices will meet here before the meeting of the regular ministerial conference on November 21.

During this meeting, he disclosed, the Pricing Committee will discuss a comprehensive report by the General Secretariat on the current situation of the oil market in preparation to submit it to the upcoming OPEC regular conference. The Pricing Committee includes in its membership Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Venezuela, Nigeria and Indonesia.

Asked about his coming visit to Kuwait which will start on Friday, the former Indonesian oil minister said that he would like to use this visit as a pretext for his visits to both Iran and Iraq. "Kuwait is an appropriate entrance for my visits to Iran and Iraq." In Kuwait, he said he will meet with H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah and will focus on various issues and questions related to OPEC and the prices of oil.

Earlier in the year, Subroto visited Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. After his visit to Kuwait he will visit Iran, Iraq and other OPEC and non-OPEC oil countries.

OPEC's chief executive indirectly urged Iraq to come back to the cartel, especially [now] that the war with Iran has come to an end with Tehran's acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598. The chances are better now for Iraq to be committed to OPEC's quota, said Subroto, while stressing that the reasons for not doing so have greatly diminished. Iraq stopped abiding by OPEC's production quota because its demands to have equal production levels with Iran was rejected by the cartel.

"The problem in the past was Iraq's insistence to have equal share of production as Iran because of political, technical and economic reasons," he asserted. "This problem has now vanished as the end of war changed the political climate."

Subroto indicated that if Iraq came back to OPEC's system, the over-all production of oil in the world will decrease by 600 to 700 barrels a day because Iraq will have to cut its production to 2.369 million barrels per day to be equal to Iran's official quota. "What we are trying to do now is have the two countries (Iran and Iraq) accept an agreement on equal production levels," Subroto said.

He added that this issue will be the core of his talks when he visits the capitals of both countries and meets with oil and energy officials in Iran and Iraq. No date for the visits has been announced, but it is believed that they will take place in the next two months.

On OPEC's relations with non-OPEC oil producting countries, Subroto said that he supports an open and continuing dialogue between the two sides, noting that all oil producting countries in the world "are in one ship" and share the same goals. Specifically, he pinned down on the necessity to have talks with the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain, which remain outside the cartel and maintain reservations toward it.

Chad

Lassou Leaves for Tunis With Habre Message

AB2308204488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou left Ndjamena today with a message from the president of the Republic, El Hadj Hissein Habre, to his Tunisian counterpart, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The two heads of state exchange messages as part of relations between Tunis and Ndjamena.

Libyan Mistreatment of Chadians Charged

AB2408075388 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Chadians living in Libya continue to undergo atrocious treatment at the hands of the Tripoli regime. In our newscast yesterday, we mentioned that Libyan forces carried out a round-up operation in the Chadian community. The round-up operation continues at a more accelerated rate.

Sidra, Benghazi, Sebha, and Tripoli have become torture centers for Chadians residing in Libya. In these four cities, and in most other cities where there is a Chadian community, round-up operations are being carried out with extreme violence. Our compatriots are subjected to relentless harassment. The casualty toll continues to grow and in our next cast we hope to be able to give you more details.

All these large-scale round-up operations are directed against Chadians, some of whom have been living in Libya for more than 20 years. These compatriots, who had previously been integrated into Libyan society, are victims of hatred and political calculations of the Tripoli regime. The case of (Yaya Bilala), killed during one of these operations, eloquently illustrates our assertion. This compatriot, who was well known by the Libyans, having assumed a position of responsibility within the OAU, was considered both by Libyans and Chadians as the (?spokesman) of the Chadian community in Libya. Today, (?this man) is no more. Chadians who are now enduring the atrocities of the Libyans will especially feel the loss of (Yaya Bilala) because he was the defender of their community.

This is not the first time that our compatriots residing in Al-Qadhdhafi's country have been chased out and killed. The Libyan Army and Al-Qadhdhafi's people's committees have always set upon the Chadian community in Libya. These round-up operations can be explained thus: Al-Qadhdhafi carries out such operations whenever he runs shorts of cannon fodder, or whenever he is faced with military or diplomatic setbacks. Thus, in 1978, after [words indistinct] he ordered similar round-up operations, which resulted in more than 10 people killed in the Chadian community.

Recently, after the historic debacle in Chadian territory, he revived his hatred against Chadians. Last week, the operations began again under the leadership of Colonel Madjhub, the right-hand man of the Libyan leader, who is well known to Chadians. This planned extermination policy of the (?colonel) of Tripoli, falls in line with the policy conducted against Chad by the Libyan regime which (?cares less) about justice, dialogue, and understanding.

What is paradoxical about all these actions is that these round-ups come at a time when the Libyan colonel is convincing international opinion that he is ready to restore peace between Chad and his country. Real peace, indeed! A few days ago, Tripoli ostentatiously announced it is exchanging prisoners with Chad. Today, we realize that, in fact, it is only the Chadians being rounded up in Tripoli who will constitute the prisoners. Those caught in these round-ups are amassed in the prisons of the major towns in Libya and labeled prisoners of war.

In light of what is happening in Libya, we must make our compatriots living in that country understand that they should no longer (?submit) to the hatred of the Libyan authorities. They should, therefore, draw lessons from what is currently happening. Finally, the international opinion—that of Africa, with the OAU in the forefront—should (?expose) the fact that Tripoli has a fascist attitude toward Chadians, while at the same time it seeks ways and means of restoring peace between Ndjamena and itself.

Floods in Ndjamena Kill 2, Destroy Houses

AB2308204288 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Since 1400 this afternoon, Ndjamena has been under water. An uninterrupted torrential rain is still pouring over the city, causing a lot of damage. Provisional casualty figures we have are: two dead; two slightly injured, and many houses crumbling down. The meteorological services at the Ndjamena airport recorded 85 mm of rain today.

Egypt

Libya, Cairo Reportedly To Resume Ties 'Soon'

JN2308173288 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 21 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo, AL-ANBA'—It is reported in Cairo that a meeting will take place soon between President Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi follwing the success of the mediation efforts of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Agreement was also reached to resume relations between the two countries soon. Libya will pay compensation to Egyptian workers. Air flights between the two countries will be resumed. They also agreed on noninterference in domestic affairs of the two countries. Egyptian newspapers and magazines will be allowed to enter Libya.

Ghali Denounces South African Policy on Namibia
NC2408083688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Egypt has announced that South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia represents a blatant act of aggression against the Namibian people. It called on the Frontline countries and all other African countries to consolidate their efforts to provide the necessary backing and support for the struggle of the Namibian people and for SWAPO, the sole legitimate representative of the Namibian people.

This came in Egypt's speech at the celebration marking Namibia Day which was held in the [former] Arab League headquarters in Cairo today. The speech was delivered by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Interior Minister Badr on Prisons, Terrorism
JN2308114188 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 19 Aug 88 pp 14-19, 51-57

[Interview with Interior Minister Zaki Badr by unidentified reporters—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] AL-MUSAWWAR: Despite the police forces' good performance and relentless efforts which ended the issue of the three escapees from the Turrah prison, the laxity which led to their escape, ultimately, remains an important issue which deserves a good deal of discussion.

Your Excellency the Minister, cans full of gasoline were found in the cell of the escapees. The defendants also wore prison guards uniforms during their escape. Moreover, there are signs which confirm that they managed to leave their cell to the prison ward and then the prison yard. Finally, they escaped through the prison's main gate. When we see that prisons, which are supposed to be places of control and discipline, reach this extent of negligence and laxity, what can we expect next? What is your viewpoint in this regard?

The minister: I have always been accustomed to being honest with myself. What happened, according to all standards, is a grave deficiency. This has applied to Egyptian prisons for a long time. Drugs, money, and tools to assist escape had access into prisons. Regrettably, this used to take place through the guards and visitors who played a role in this corruption and deficiency.

However, what I am concerned about now is to affirm that some decisive measures have been adopted. The guards in all Egyptian prisons are now inspected daily when they enter and leave prisons. Perhaps being honest with myself obliges me to say that after this incident, and during inspections of the prison guards, some smuggling incidents inside the prisons in the interest of prisoners were discovered. The action now is immediate trial for the guards involved, imprisonment, and then dismissal. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Did you receive any information about the affiliation of any police officers with extremist groups? Have incidents of this sort been reported?

The minister: Only a very small minority is involved in this type of thing. The response is immediate dismissal from the police apparatus. For example, once in Tanta while the member of an extremist group was being chased, it happened that a brother of a police officer was among the leaders of this group. Although the officer was not a member of it, it happened that he was on leave. Thus, he managed to hamper the apprehension process. A decision to dismiss him was made. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you believe the wave of extremist groups in Egypt is retreating or are they still strong and active? How does the interior minister assess the current size of these groups?

The minister: Undoubtedly, they are in a state of retreat. Efforts to reduce their criminal activity continue. As long as I am alive and at my post I will deny any outlaw the opportunity to tamper with the security of the state and the country regardless of the circumstances.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What proves they are in a state of retreat?

The minister: All incidents, events, processes of containment, investigations, and follow-up of activities indicate they are in a state of retreat.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How do you then explain the recent incidents in the 'Ayn Shams area?

The minister: I explain them as desperate attempts through which the remnants of these groups try to prove their existence in the arena. However, within the framework of their commitment to protect the community from these groups, the police confronted them firmly and brought the situation under control. The State Security Prosecutor's Office directed charges of crowding and resisting the authorities to 51 defendants.

We expect such incidents anywhere and anytime and take precautions against them.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But Mr Minister, it is rumored that the security forces provoked these groups which were at the Adam Mosque to perform the evening prayers.

The minister: This is half the truth and a half truth is false. We received information that a number of the Jihad group were planning to stage a violent demonstration in the 'Ayn Shams streets after the evening prayers. We presented the information available to us to the Prosecutor's Office which permitted the security forces to prevent the demonstration and arrest the members of the group. However, no sooner had the forces approached the mosque than the members of the group, who climbed the wall to the top of the mosque and nearby roofs, began to hurl stones, empty bottles, and burning missiles at them.

They broke the skull of an officer when they dropped a big stone on his head. A number of soldiers were also injured. Nevertheless, the security forces exercised self-restraint until shooting began and two soldiers and one officer were hit. The forces had to defend themselves and chase them in the narrow streets leading to the mosque.

The forces carefully fired a number of teargas shells and shotgun bullets but the nature of the narrow streets caused some casualties among the people and among some Jihad group members. The forces besieged the mosque until they arrested a number of suspects including at least 20 members of the Jihad organization.

The following day, a number of Jihad members in the same neighborhood set two police cars on fire. The cars were carrying two officers to their homes in the same area. The same evening, another group of suspects was arrested and the forces were asked to leave the congested alleys and besiege the area from outside to prevent the escape of any of the members of these organizations. I can make three assertions:

1. The forces that were empowered by the Prosecutor's Office were acting in self-defense and did not open fire before many of their members were hit.

2. This is not the first time that the members of this group have been dealt with in this area. A few months ago, the security forces dealt with them in this area but they continued their activities as explained in many leaflets which were impounded and which accuse the state of being infidel, call for civil disobedience, and urge the people to take to the streets and demonstrate.

3. As the person in charge of internal security in this country, I clearly say that I will not allow the Asyut events to be reenacted in Cairo and make the extremists an authority imposing its will on the people by force. Our task will continue until this hotbed is wiped out.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What are the numbers of the extremist groups in your estimation?

The minister: There is no accurate count.

AL-MUSAWWAR: An estimation, the detained at least.

The minister: There are sympathizers who may not be playing any role. They have been deceived and they do not have conviction. Never believe that these people have conviction. They have money. They take money for the services they render. If they stopped their services, the money supply would cease.

AL-MUSAWWAR: This may be the case with the leaderships and not the bases who are corrupted and brainwashed. The problem with these bases is that they believe in these ideas and are prepared to make sacrifices to promote their black ideologies.

The minister: Yes, but concerning those you mentioned, ordinary religious activity and dialogue will absorb them and remove them from criminal elements which obtain money from abroad with the aim of carrying out definite aims. Yet I ask you: Is the people's awareness of these groups' threats—leaving other information aside—the same as it was 2 years ago? I think that the masses are now aware of these individuals' aims and the threats they pose. They know that they hide behind religion.

I sensed people's relief when the security forces besieged the fleeing members. They were very happy with our measures because these groups do not work against me or against you but against the national interests and every citizen. Nobody is safe under the shadow of terrorism. The people suffer from their authority in various places because they are supposed to be responsible for religious duties. Look at what happened in Asyut and the universities. The minority is imposing its will on the majority through terror. The people have exposed these elements. They knew their aims and, therefore, I say they are retreating.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Will the fall and retreat of the Iranian model be instrumental in the fall and retreat of the Egyptian extremist groups?

The minister: No doubt about that.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Dialogue always exposes these elements and AL-MUSAWWAR had a pioneering experiment in this field. Why did the dialogue with the religious extremists stop?

The minister: Dialogue is very important. Some say that I do not believe in dialogue. I say that dialogue is important and we all must realize the importance and value of dialogue. However, there are strong-headed elements who reject dialogue and who resort to arms. How can we have dialogue with such elements? If they resort to arms what can you do? Would you tell them: What a shame, this is improper; or would you find it necessary to use deterrent means?

AL-MUSAWWAR: What exactly do they want?

The minister: These elements receive money from abroad to reach certain aims. I am not rambling. One day, Khomeyni thought that he could export the Islamic revolution's ideology to Egypt and become a caliph for the Muslims. He budgeted a great amount of money for terrorist operations in the Arab world. He is paying for terrorist elements in many countries and not only in Egypt. Their task is to shake the security and destabilize the country. They want to realize Iranian plans so the regimes in Egypt and other Arab countries will be like Khomeyni's and under Khomeyni's domination.

Al-Qadhdhafi is paying tremendous amounts of money to realize his goal of ruling the entire region. These are mad men with which we have been afflicted in this age. Some want to become caliphs for all the Muslims, some want to become heroes and leaders. All of them spend money to realize their false hopes.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are there documents and other pieces of evidence to show there is a type of material connection between Iran and these organizations?

The minister: Yes.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is this only analytical evidence or are there documents and pieces of tangible evidence?

The minister: We have impounded amounts of money coming from abroad and we have detailed confessions in this regard pertaining to missions which went there to get training and implement these plans.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Did these missions go to Tehran?

The minister: It may not be Tehran in particular. There are many other states in which there are pro-Iranian groups such as Lebanon, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Athens. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: There are many people who believe that the problem of security in Egypt is the lack of a comprehensive strategy. 'Abd al-Nasir's security strategy always realized that it was in permanent confrontation with extreme and rightist trends, and it was a comprehensive strategy, in which all details were included. Al-Sadat's security strategy realized that it was in permanent confrontation with the left from the beginning of Al-Sadat's rule until he was assassinated. The question is: What exactly is your security strategy, and against whom?

This is one point. The other is that, nowadays, security in Egypt works on the basis of action and reaction. Something happens, then there is a response. Things will then cool down until something else happens, and there is a response.

The minister: With respect to your opinion, our strategy now is democracy. Democracy means opinion and counter-opinion. Democracy means the supremacy of law. Therefore, there is a law, and there is breaking of the law. The strategy now is to fight anyone who breaks the law, regardless of their political affiliation or intellectual trend. First of all, we do not oppose anybody because he has a rightist or leftist trend. Everybody has the right to believe in whatever ideas he wishes. You are free in what you believe. Yet, you must not do anything prohibited by the law. If you do, then you will be faced with measures of the law that could take any form. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Why this escalation now?

The minister: I say there is no escalation, but there are circumstances. There are those who escaped from jails. You trace and find them, they fire bullets and throw bombs at you. you confront them, they get killed. If we analyze it, it is a very normal thing. They want to prove themselves on the ground and say they are not weakened, and they are confronted by the law.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How do you explain the consecutive clashes between the extremist groups and the Muslim Brotherhood in Upper Egypt?

The minister: Yes, this is happening in one place—Asyut. They are mainly extremist groups, who were divided by the money and there is nothing more to it. Among those, there was a group calling itself the Muslim Brotherhood Youths, and this group was supported by a university professor. The other group was taking more money. Because the whole issue was that of money, they even attacked the university professor.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Is the existing struggle between the extremist groups and the Muslim Brotherhood Youths on this basis, or are there ideological differences between the two organizations?

The minister: No. No, the issue is not more than cheating in the name of religion.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But we are afraid this is an oversimplication of the issue.

The minister: No. No, they have no conviction or ideology or anything of the sort.

AL-MUSAWWAR: After the assassination of Al-Sadat, many schools of thought emerged among them.

The minister: This was just a contest. But I say that in spite of their differences, they all work within the framework of one strategy. These groups are now one unit with a distribution of their roles. Some opposition figures have entered the same coalition, together with their party practices, with one aim. This is in spite of the fact that their ranks may be divided.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How do you explain that a large proportion of them succeeded in getting elected to the People's Assembly?

The minister: The Egyptian people—Muslims and Christians—are religious and religion does touch their hearts. If you want to be in control, then you do this through religion. When one of them walks in and says: "God is great. There is no God but Allah," then all of us, save our communist brothers, will repeat this after him. When he says: "God is the source of all support and power. The Koran is our constitution," then all of us will say the same. The Egyptian people are simple and religious and they are affected by this trend.

When they say: "Religion is lost. We want to implement the Islamic laws," then they all play with words. What do they want to implement from the Islamic laws, that music is prohibited? I have given you a small example of what they are talking about. They are saying that the state's funds are prohibited because they include usury. I ask them, why are they taking this money? I don't know. The money from abroad may not be prohibited. I don't know. These are all allegations, and, to a large extent, people have changed their views now regarding these groups. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: To what extent will you use the emergency law?

The minister: We have not used the emergency law except in cases of extremism, drugs, economic destruction, currency trade, and trading with the people's sustenance.

AL-MUSAWWAR: How many times have you used it to combat extremism and drugs?

The minister: Most of the cases for which I used the law are cases of extremism, as well as drugs, terrorism, trading with the people's sustenance, and with some criminals who pose a certain danger such as incidents of kidnapping, rape, and street hold-ups.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Are there any statistics?

The minister: Yes...in the case of supplies for example. I have 145 cases of people who store supplies and are big traders in the black market. In the public funds area, I have 171 cases of currency dealers, 346 cases of drug dealers, 501 cases of accident causers, 436 cases of detainees of the extremist category; that is less than the criminal level, 58 of which are convicted. The total amounts to 1163 cases and this is a developing and changing situation.

AL-MUSAWWAR: We believe that the idea behind using the emergency law is to protect state security, Egypt's security. What is the point of applying this law to traders for example?

The minister: Those people who exploit the people's sustenance are not necessarily taken to court. Perhaps they are taken to court, but the procedure requires a long time and then they are released on bail or something else. We have to use some kind of deterrent. It becomes my duty to arrest them so that they will feel that they have deprived the people of their basic sustenance. If the law permitted me to "slaughter" these types, I would do it because they are the most dangerous category available. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: On the subject of drugs and white poisons, do you find any solution other than executing the trader, addict, and pusher?

The minister: No. Believe me. This is the best solution if we want to terminate this dangerous phenomenon totally from the roots.

AL-MUSAWWAR: What did you do to convince the government of the necessity of issuing such legislation?

The minister: There is a government, parties, people, public opinion, press, and many institutions. Are all these institutions convinced? It is required of these institutions to cooperate in all possible ways. It is not necessary to start with executions. Some club members say that snorting has spread among all the youth of the clubs. What do you do? Those people who put themselves in places of certain leadership, what is their role toward the youth and toward the general morality in these clubs and institutions?

What I want to say is that all institutions start by information, censorship, and supervision. On the other hand, our responsibility is to follow up on the smugglers, dealers, and drug addicts. In the field of drugs, we recently caught a shipment with a horrifying amount of opium, hashish, and white poison. Egypt is one of the target consumer markets of the world...one of the most important drug consumption markets.

In the field of combating drugs we seized large quantities and arrested international gangs. Our organs' investigations cover the world. Our men travel to Europe—to Germany and France—where international gangs are arrested in light of our information and investigations.

With regard to the Suez ship case on 21 July, the "Star" ship was seized with 3,687 kg of opium; 1,622 kg of hashish; and a quantity of heroin on board. In this case, there was a Pakistani smuggler who is considered one of the most dangerous drug producers and smugglers in Pakistan and the Golden Crescent [as published]. The American narcotics authorities consider him the most important element arrested during the past 5 years. In this case, there was also a Lebanese man, the principal man in the Rahlah family which is famous for producing and smuggling drugs—he is a billionaire and is treated as a king—a Lebanese, the son and the right-hand man of the famous smuggler Muhammad Husayn Birri; and there were other men in Egypt to receive the ship.

Over a period of 6 months, there were 5,233 cases and 5,919 defendants. During the same period the following quantities of drugs were seized: 5 tons, 389 kg, and 410 grams of hashish; 165.2 kg of opium; and 31 kg of heroin. These quantities do not include the recent quantity [seized in Suez]; 10 kg of pills; 22 kg of marijuana; and 984.370 cubic cm, approximately 1 million cubic cm, of Maxton Forte liquid.

AL-MUSAWWAR: It is said that only 10 per cent is seized.

The minister: Nobody can say 10 or 5 per cent, but not everything that enters the country is seized.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you believe that behind this great flow of drugs there is a kind of political conspiracy against the Egyptian people

The minister: Please keep away politics and the Mosad. I am not defending the Mosad or foreign intelligence. All those who talk about the Mosad and America are targeting the Camp David accords and want us to enter war with Israel in the interest of the drugs which come to Egypt, because Egypt is one of the largest consumption markets.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Do you think the present law tackles all aspects of the problem?

The minister: In some cases, the death sentence is carried out against those who are charged with smuggling, trading, and taking drugs.

AL-MUSAWWAR: But death sentences were issued and not carried out?

The minister: Death sentences were not carried out because our law considers the reversal of death sentences. Another trial takes place and the procedures take a long time.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Does Your Excellency have anything to say on the law?

The minister: I would like a death sentence to be applied against each person who even takes drugs. [passage omitted]

Israel's 'Oppressive' Measures Criticized

JN2408101088 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Aug 88 p 5

[Editorial: "An Unjust, Futile Method"]

[Text] Tel Aviv's rulers are mistaken if their illusions make them believe that escalating the savage measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories will help to quell the heroic uprising, which is approaching its 9th month without getting weaker. During that period, Israeli authorities tried different types of oppressive and violent methods. They used them all without achieving their main objective to silence the Palestinian voice, which is reaching the whole world to awaken the sleeping consciences.

The harsh prison sentences, confiscation of property, increasing deportations of Palestinian strugglers from their homeland—a policy which constitutes a frank breach of all international laws and accords and civilized behavior—have all failed. Other measures will also fail to bury this movement, which was resurrected after a long period of patience with all Israeli measures, which aim principally to spread despair among the Palestinian people of regaining their sovereignty over their occupied territory. No matter how much the Tel Aviv rulers increase the arrests and expulsions from the occupied territory, they will need centuries to empty the Palestinian land of its people and thousands of prisons to house the detainees.

If the Israeli rulers have any reason and intelligence, they would understand that after all those long months of the Palestinian uprising, all traditional oppression methods, which the Israeli troops excelled in, will not be able to contain a people who decided, this time, to continue to raise their loud cry to regain their just right of freedom and dignity, and until they achieve their objectives no matter how many of their sons are martyred.

In certain circumstances, Israel succeeded in demonstrating its military control and iron-fist rule in the territories it occupies by steel and fire. Yet, it has demonstrated to the world despicable failure in the arts of wisdom and politics. These arts affirm that it is impossible to continue the use of force against a people who refuse to remain idle vis-a-vis unjustice and humiliation.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Offers To Host PLO Government

LD2408085588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0822 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 24 (KUNA)—Libya has offered to host a Palestinian government in exile if and when the Palestine Liberation Organization decides to form it, AL-ITTIHAD newspaper reported Wednesday.

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi made the offer to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat when the Palestinian leader was visiting Tripoli last week, the paper said quoting Palestinian sources in Damascus.

Al-Qadhdhafi, who has recently reconciled his differences with the PLO leadership, suggested that the Palestinian government in exile be based in Tripoli and promised to offer all needed facilities for that government to function.

A Palestinian government in exile is now being hotly debated within Palestinian circles and the issue is expected to be finally decided on in a session of the Palestine National Council (PNC) slated for Algiers next month.

Al-Qadhdhafi Proposes Nonaligned Defense Force

LD2408000488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1332 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 23 (KUNA)—Libyan leader Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has suggested the formation of a nonaligned defence force to protect and guarantee the 'independence of members of the movement'.

Collective defence by countries of the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] and formation of an anti-imperialist world front becomes the practical method to protect nonaligned countries, the Libyan leader said in a message to the Indian Institute of Nonaligned Studies on the success of the just concluded symposium "Nonaligned Movement and its role in realising a world without war and free from racial discrimination."

He said the formation of the NAM force would help achieve this goal and added the nonaligned nations should unitedly fight against Zionist and racial forces to help Palestinians achieve the right of self determination and eradicate racism from the globe.

The three-day symposium was attended by delegates from 40 countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Yugoslavia. It was inaugurated by speaker of Indian Parliament Balram Jakhar.

Col al-Qadhdhafi reiterated his country's full support to the people of South Africa and Palestine, who were fighting against repression and racism.

He said the world was ruled by the superpowers while the poor and developing nations paid the cost of war. Our lands, people and countries are used as an ideal stage for regional wars, conflict and testing of fatal weapons.

He said that NAM has failed to assert itself to protect the poor and Third World nations from threats of war and upheavals.

Referring to the creation of NAM, Al-Qadhdhafi said the dreams of Al-Nasir, Nehru, Tito, Sukarno and Nkrumah were none more there. [sentence as received] Neither the world in the present situation has any regard for the movement nor the big powers give any weight to its existence.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi Addresses Constituent Assembly 22 Aug

LD2308113688 Omdurman Sudan Television Service in Arabic 1714 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Speech by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the Constituent Assembly on 22 August; monitored in progress—recorded]

[Excerpts] There were spare parts, and it became clear that there was a big surplus; why was it not limited? [Words indistinct] because it became clear to the committee that spare parts were needed. Arrangements were made to bring them quickly, but it transpired that they were [words indistinct]. The important thing is that there are many questions to be asked. In addition, it is known that electricity supplies are in a state of (?emergency) from the beginning of the month of floods, until the beginning of [words indistinct].

[Passage indistinct] clear optimism that (?five) people concerned with electricity supply were away on leave at this very critical stage. This is like soldiers being absent from military service while their post is under attack. It is known that this stage is very important with regard to emergency services and electricity production.

These are all very important matters. I know that unusual natural conditions have appeared in our country, but there are also clear administrative and technical shortcomings [words indistinct].

What is the nature of the responsibilities of independent bodies? Who is held accountable for the darkness, hunger, and thirst which have afflicted the Sudanese? One of us is responsible, or many of us are responsible. This responsibility must be hung around the neck of one of us, or the necks of some of us. [Word indistinct] or civility cannot be tolerated in this issue. Therefore, we must know who is responsible and [word indistinct]; people were left hungry and thirsty, the capital was left in darkness. If our people were not civilized, God only knows how great a catastrophe would have taken place.

Extraordinary efforts are now being made [word indistinct] and the electricity now available is between 77 and 136 megawatts, which satisfies the needs of essential services such as water pumping stations, hospitals, sewage plants, and factories manufacturing strategic goods. The remaining power will be distributed to residential districts where existing electricity networks still function. [passage indistinct]

What I want to assert here is that there are no unsolvable issues; we are not trying to reach Mars or the moon. We are trying to solve known, studied, determined, and decided issues, which might have developed this year, but are still all known technical issues. So, why were the necessary preparations and arrangements not taken? All these are legitimate questions which must clearly be

answered, God willing. The problem here (?is dealing) with water and bread, a matter which caused hunger in the capital. Despite the fact that the country is full of [word indistinct] and corn. Still the capital was hungry. Citizens have in fact been very patient. All the demonstrations which took place were understandable.

True, some people who did not have real political support said [words indistinct]. It was, however, a shameful operation, and no one followed it. However, the angry and spontaneous demonstrations were understandable—people expressed their exasperation because they were hungry, thirsty, and felt that their daily needs had disappeared. This is why there were such demonstrations.

Let us return to the subject of (?medicine) and bread. [Words indistinct] as a number of automated bakeries with electricity. Despite the fact that automated bakeries are compelled by law to have generators in case there is an electricity cut, it was found that many of these generators were not working, or even did not exist. There is another problem, concerning administrative and legal indicipline. What matters, however, are the problems concerning maize and bread production arising from electricity supply problems and flooding. There are also problems that have arisen from other (?sources).

Flour used to be distributed to bakers through agents. There was a problem with this—were the agents delivering the flour to bakers, or was there a fault in the process whereby most flour was reaching the black market?

The question of pricing bread has been decided by fixing the price of a 140-gram loaf at 15 pesetas, with the government providing the yeast and distributing the flour directly to the bakeries, both the mechanized and the traditional, and with the people's committees supervising the whole exercise. The important thing is that we know about the problems relating to energy and its generation, and those relating to legal and administrative efficiency. Problems relating to pricing have been tackled by allowing reasonable profit margins over cost price.

The question of disributing flour to those who deserve it has been settled on the basis of direct distribution. We hope that this, along with public supervision and discipline, will provide the means to overcome this problem. Concerning the (?faulty operation) of flour mills, which caused stoppages at many of the capital's bakeries, measures have been taken to deal with this problem. Measures have also been taken to distribute quantities of corn.

Unfortunately the corn and bread problems worsened other problems, such as (?thirst), while the elecricity cuts made life for our people very difficult. What aggravated the matter acutely was the problem of rain. In less than a week, starting from 30 July, 279.5mm of rain was registered in the capital. The usual average rainfall in the capital amounts to 160mm per year. Therefore, after the 4 August rain we called an emergency meeting of the Council of Ministers.

At this meeting, held on Friday, 5 August, we reviewed the problems and dangers citizens might face due to this major catastrophe, and we set up a higher ministerial committee, composed of Council of Ministers officials, to mobilize internal resources and capabilities, and [words indistinct]. Its task was to take all measures pertaining to the provision of shelter, food, and medicine for those affected by the rain and floods; the mobilization of official capabilities; the conscription of popular efforts to collect cash and other donations; the setting up of popular committees to supervise the distribution of relief material; the provision of machinery and vehicles needed for the relief campaign; and contacting sisterly and friendly countries and international organizations to seek aid. [passage omitted]

While trying to confront the problems arising from the disaster, we found ourselves facing a media campaign of fabrications and exaggeration. We call on the people to understand the facts; we are not hiding anything. We welcome all those who want to know the truth; we are willing to facilitate their tasks, contrary to what is happening in the majority of Africa, where facts are hushed up and hidden. Despite all this, we are treated as if we are one of those countries which hides the truth. Several correspondents are trying to harm us with their imagination. We have heard reports that Sudan is drowning, disease has spread throughout the country.

I am able to confirm that no epidemic has yet been reported in the country, and that measures taken to protect the environment continue with great efficiency. There are no signs of any epidemics. We have heard reports that the Army has used up the relief supplies. In fact, during the first days of the disaster, the Army gave up its food supplies so that they could be used as relief supplies in different parts of the capital. [passage omitted]

A myth that was circulated recently was that rainfalls are plentiful, but not in the correct areas: I have asked the brothers in the weather forecast services to submit a study and analysis. They have presented a study with figures concerning rainfalls in agricultural production areas. Their conclusion is: None of the agricultural production areas have been affected by disruption in rainfalls, a matter that guarantees continuation of planting. Rainfalls began on time and they did not fail in any region. [passage omitted]

Our future prosperity is effectively great concerning this season, if we manage to cope with the damage regarding farming, water, and grazing, and given the lessons learned. There might be great prosperity if we manage to confront these dangers. [passage omitted]

There have been security developments in Darfur. One new development is the illegal entry of 2,000 soldiers of Ibn Oumar. Instructions issued to them are that they are faced with precise options: If they want to stay in Sudan they must surrender their weapons to the Sudanese Armed Forces, and they stay as refugees until we look into a mediation between them and the Chad regime to remedy the problems between them. If they want to go to Chad, they go there with an agreement that must be formulated and defined with the regime existing in Chad.

The Sudanese Armed Forces are dealing with the situation. We do not want armed forces on our territory. They either stay in Sudan as refugees, or they go to Chad in a way to be agreed with the Chadian authorities. Their leader, Ibn Oumar, wanted to join them, but Sudan refused his entry. We are now dealing with the matter of disarming this force and their treatment as refugees. We will then come to an agreement with the Government of Chad over their future, as they are Chadian citizens.

There is also the issue of developments concerning a peaceful settlement. Several contacts have been made on this issue, and now a joint government and opposition committee is organizing the stages of a peaceful settlement. We hope that a formula will be found to form a national committee which will organize contacts with the various sides for convening the national constitutional conference. It is hoped that this will take place this year. [passage omitted]

Khartoum Imposes Restrictions on Media

NC2308124888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Aug (MENA)—The Sudanese Ministry of Culture and Information has imposed restrictions on the activities of foreign press, television, and radio correspondents. In a statement released today, 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese Minister of Culture and Information, explained that Western news agency and press correspondents in particular have exploited the emergency circumstances which Sudan is facing because of the floods. They have disseminated rumors and false news about the aid being received from abroad and the manner of its distribution.

These reports were written in a way that undermined confidence in the quarters responsible for the distribution work and cast doubt on the basis on which the aid is being distributed.

It should be recalled that in a speech delivered before the Sudanese Constituent Assembly yesterday, Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi criticized the way the foreign media had described the situation in Sudan in the wake of the floods. He accused press correspondents and radio and television stations of exaggerating the situation in Sudan.

The statement said that the ministry has imposed restrictions on the activities of foreign correspondents. These restrictions include a ban on the entry of any photographic or recording equipment, any television or radio transmission, and any direct contacts with any journalist or press correspondent without prior permission from the Ministry of Culture and Information.

No journalist or correspondent may photograph any site or move about in the capital with the aim of photographing or recording unless accompanied by a representative from the Ministry of Culture and Information. Both parties should carry documents proving this. No journalist or correspondent may send a live dispatch via satellite or send pictures and recordings outside the country unless these are first checked and approved by the ministry.

In its statement, the Information Ministry called on the Sudanese public to show awareness and caution in dealing with those elements who are trying to find shortcomings and would use innocent conversations to sow sedition and spread doubt in the ranks.

The ministry has told hotels and commercial offices to ensure that its telex facilities are not illicitly used to dispatch press reports unchecked by the Ministry of Culture and Information.

The statement said that the minister of culture and information has contacted the Sudanese interior minister with a view to implementing these decisions.

Dr 'Umar Nur al-Dayim, minister of finance and head of the higher ministerial committee set up to deal with the dangers of floods and inundation, had told foreign journalists that they are free to move around in the country and to dispatch any news they want to their institutions, because Sudan is a democracy and does not impose restrictions on journalists.

Abu Salih Views Domestic, International Issues

PM2308093488 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Aug 88 p 9

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih by Muhammad Mahjub; place, date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Mahjub] How do you see Sudan's future under the great challenges facing the development process?

[Abu Salih] Sudan is proud of the great development resources it possesses, namely, vast areas of fertile land, minerals, and rivers. But true development has not yet begun to achieve prosperity for the Sudanese people, the reason being the existence of major challenges facing the economic system, which has suffered a major shock for domestic and foreign reasons, including heavy debts. All this has hampered the development process. Besides, there

is no justification for the war in the south. The objective of the war is not defined, but leaders of the southern movement claim that liberation is their objective.

The democratic regime in Sudan seeks to achieve peace and fraternity among the citizens, including minorities, and this proves that there is no justification for the war in the south, which the southern movement can end of its own accord. The war affects the deteriorating economy in Sudan. Stability, security, and development must be achieved through Sudanese diplomatic efforts by anyone who can contribute diplomatically, either inside the country—parties, organizations, ulema, or refugees—or by those residing abroad. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Security is a basic pillar of economic development. How do you view present security conditions in Sudan?

[Abu Salih] Achieving and strengthening security in Sudan would enhance efforts being made to advance the economic development process. This is because there can be no true development in areas infested with robbers and murderers. Besides, infighting in some areas does not encourage investment in projects that would strengthen the development process. Furthermore, the expenditure on military operations and killing can be allocated to enhacing development. That is why we are anxious to establish security throughout Sudan so that the 1 million square miles will be under security and peace.

[Mahjub] What about the Sudanese security plan and the Armed Forces' role in achieving security in the country?

[Abu Salih] The Sudanese Armed Forces are highly efficient and are proceeding steadily in the performance of their tasks. But they still need to be reinforced and developed in order to achieve our aspirations and strengthen security in the country, the Arab states, as well as the Horn of Africa. [passage omitted]

[Mahjub] Do you expect harmony, understanding, and integration to continue between the parties of the national accord government over the coming 2 years to prevent any military coups?

[Abu Salih] The parties of the national accord government constitute a true force in Sudan. This does not mean that they do not face opposition. In fact the opposite is the case: There is opposition—but minor opposition represented by the presence of a deputy in the Constituent Assembly. I do not believe there is any possibility of the government's being dismantled. In addition, a military coup in Sudan is totally out of the question, since there is a security plan aimed at preventing any coups. We do not fear this as much as we fear obstruction caused by differences. But we have now overcome differences and hope that accord will continue.

[Mahjub] How do you view Sudanese-Ethiopian relations at present?

[Abu Salih] There was strong tension in relations because of the rebel movement which used Ethiopian territory as a base for training and preparation. Their occupation of the Kurmuk area posed a threat to a large strategic zone in Sudan, since this area is a prime source of water and energy. This was followed by Egyptian mediation to improve relations, which we actually sensed was happening. But they still believe that Sudan supports resistance against Ethiopia, although the Eritreans in Sudan are staying as refugees, and this is a fact witnessed by the world. Our objective is to maintain good relations with Ethiopia.

We expect Ethiopia to play the same role in connection with the rebel movement. We are in earnest in our efforts to achieve a peaceful solution and sit at the negotiating table. We hope that present efforts will improve relations with Ethiopia—especially efforts being made by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz—so that permanent peace and concord will prevail in the region.

[Mahjub] Is there any intention to sign new agreements with Egypt after the military cooperation agreement?

[Abu Salih] The brotherhood charter was signed recently. It replaces the previous integration charter between the two countries which are linked by deep-rooted relations in the cultural, educational, economic, and security fields. Recent efforts have resulted in the signing of an agreement for strengthening technical cooperation between both countries' armed forces. [passage omitted]

Khartoum Mayor Issues Order on Law Violations

LD2308131288 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Statement by Khartoum Mayor Mohammad al-Fatih 'Abdun, issued on 22 August in Khartoum—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The Almighty has said: Woe to those who deal in fraud, those who must receive exact full measure from men who owe them but who give less than is due when they owe it. Do they not think they will be called to account? God has spoken the truth.

Honorable compatriots, God's peace and mercy be upon you. At the start of my term as mayor of the nation's capital, I share with you the living worries over the predicament that has befallen us all as a result of the natural disasters. We have a backward situation in the capital, which is incapable of fending off the disaster.

Worse than the natural disasters are the moral disasters that have prompted some citizens to exploit the bad situation as a way to obtain unlawful riches. Essential

commodities have suddenly disappeared from markets, despite the fact that the statistics affirm their abundance in quantities sufficient for the country, and for a long period.

Contributing to this has been the absence of supervision and the disintegration of local authority. Therefore, we have decided to reinforce the law until we restore to the state its respect and deter those tampering with the essential food supply. Contacts have been made with legal authorities to organize this and prepare the way for the immediate and prompt questioning of those committing the crime of hiding essential commodities or speculating on their prices.

We have issued a directive to enforce the 1978 price supervision law and the 1988 emergency bill and to initiate criminal proceedings to carry out the law's objectives. We have also asked our citizens to help find the places where they store their food so that it can be confiscated if it is not reported. Monetary rewards will be allocated for that purpose. All administrative officers and security organs must work according to this decree, through which we intend to ensure food supply stability in the capital. The flow of commodities to the capital will continue as usual.

This order does not prevent the sale of goods that are required to be declared directly to the public, in reasonable quantities, at the legal prices, and at authorized places. Therefore, I issue the following order: [passage omitted]

1. This order is to be called The Order on Reporting Food Commodities; it goes into force as from its signing.

2. The wholesalers, retailers, industrialists, and those possessing the following commodities must report the quantities available to the Mayor's Office of the national capital. This must be done within 48 hours from the issuance of this order. The commodities are: cooking oil, soap, rice, lentils, tomato puree, building materials—cement, wood, zinc, and all kinds of iron.

Regarding these materials, the reporting should be done within 1 week from the release of this order.

3. All citizens are requested to help by reporting to the nearest police station any amounts of these commodities found after the 48-hour period. The informer will be rewarded 10 percent of the total amount of the goods reported, if it was not reported earlier by the goods' owner.

4. Anyone violating this order will be subject to trial under the 1978 price control law and the 1988 emergency bill.

[Dated] 22 August 1988

[Signed] Mohammad al-Fatih 'Abdun, mayor of Khartoum

Tunisia

Foreign Minister Receives PLO Delegation

LD2308125288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Abdelhamid Escheikh today received a PLO delegation including Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee; and Hikmat Balawi, PLO representative in Tunis.

Faruq Qaddumi stated that the talks dealt with a number of Palestinian topics revolving around bolstering the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the Palestinian situation. Faruq Qaddumi praised President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's support and aid for the Palestinian revolution, stressing that the latter is the best guarantee that Tunisia will continue to play its role and exert its efforts to bolster the Palestinian revolution so that the Palestinian people might achieve their national rights of self-determination, the establishment of their own independent state, and the safeguarding of their independent decision-making.

Tunis Offers To Host Egypt-Libya-Algeria Talks

PM2208133888 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Aug 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Diplomatic Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Tunisia Offers To Host Reconciliation Meetings With Egypt, Libya, Algeria"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from informed diplomatic sources in Cairo that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in a recent proposal to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, has offered to host an Egyptian-Algerian meeting and an Egyptian-Libyan meeting in Tunisia to discuss settlement of outstanding issues between Egypt, Libya, and Algeria.

Tunisian Culture Minister and former Ambassador to Egypt Mohamed Habib Boulares said in Cairo yesterday that President Ben Ali has extended an official invitation to President Mubarak to visit Tunisia, that the Egyptian president accepted the invitation, and that a date will be set for the visit later.

In a statement to reporters after his meeting with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, the Tunisian minister said that President Mubarak's visit to Tunisia will be an opportunity for him to see how much the Tunisian people and government appreciate the Egyptian people and government.

He said the coming days will witness large-scale contacts between the two fraternal countries for the consolidation and development of bilateral relations. The Egyptian ministers of information and awqaf and the Egyptian mufti will visit Tunisia for talks on bilateral relations. He expressed appreciation for Egypt's role in strengthening Arab ties and praised Egyptian-Tunisian relations.

Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Tunisian president made a point, upon his return from Libya, of sending Boulares as a Tunisian envoy [to Egypt] with a message from President Ben Ali on Libya's position on the improvement of relations with Egypt. He then sent another message which was delivered to the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Tunis by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abdelhamid Escheikh.

The same sources said the Egyptian reply to the Tunisian president's proposals was positive, reflecting appreciation for President Ben Ali's mediation role between Egypt and its two Arab neighbors Algeria and Libya and expressing Egypt's willingness to send an Egyptian envoy to Tunis for consultation on the Tunisian offer.

President Ben Ali To Visit France 12-14 Sep

LD1808223688 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 18 Aug 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has released the following communique:

At the invitation of French President Francois Mitterrand, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will pay a state visit to France from 12 to 14 September. This visit emphasizes the excellent nature of the friendly ties between Tunisia and France. It will permit the reaffirmation of the determination of both countries to enrich the close cooperation which distinguishes their relations.

PDRY

Cuban Interior Ministry Delegation Arrives

EA1908212288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] A delegation of the Interior Ministry of the Socialist [as heard] Republic of Cuba led by Comrade Major General Fabian Escalante, member of the PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] Central Committee, vice minister of the interior, and head of the Central Political Department, arrived in Aden today on a several-day visit to our country. The delegation will hold talks with a number of Interior Ministry officials.

The comrade Cuban vice interior minister told ANA that he is happy to visit our country. He praised our Yemeni people's efforts and historic struggle to build a new society. He said his visit is meant to strengthen relations between Yemen and Cuba and their revolutions, and also between the interior ministries of the two friendly countries.

The delegation was met at the airport by Comrades Mutahhar Mus'id Muslih, member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of interior; Hassan Husayn 'Ali, member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of state security; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Rabb 'Ali, chief of staff of the Ministry of Interior; a number of officials of the Interior Ministry; and Comrade (Elia Alfonso), charge d'affaires of socialist [as heard] Cuba in Aden.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

LD2308034288 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpt] An agreement on friendship and cooperation was signed this evening at the People's Police mess, Khawr Maksar, between the Yemeni and Cuban Ministries of Interior. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Yemeni side by Colonel Mutahhar Mus'id Muslih, member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of the interior.

On behalf of the Cuban side it was signed by Comrade Major General Fabian Escalante, member of the Central Committee, deputy minister of the interior, and chief of the Central Political Directorate. At the same time another agreement was signed between the Ministry of State Security in our country and the Interior Ministry of Cuba. The agreement was signed on behalf of Yemen by Brother Hasan Husayn, member of the Central Committee and deputy minister of state security. [passage omitted]

Party Officials Talk With CPSU's Brutents

EA2008215488 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Brothers Salim Salih Muhammad, assistant secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, and Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, this morning met Comrade Karen Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chief of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee, currently visiting our country at the invitation of the YSP Central Committee.

They reviewed relations between the two parties and ways to develop and strengthen them, as well as developments in the Arab and international arenas. The brother assistant secretary general praised the strong relations linking the YSP and CPSU, and noted the importance of strengthening and developing them in order to serve the interests of the two friendly people and countries. He also praised the Soviet Union for training Yemeni cadres. Brother Salim Salih Muhammad praised the efforts of the CPSU in the current reconstruction in the Soviet Union to develop the economic and social conditions and strengthen the socialist structure in Soviet society.

Comrade Karen Brutents expressed pleasure at being in our country, and also his meetings with the party and state leadership, which had the aim of developing and strengthening relations between the two parties of the two friendly countries. The charge d'affaires of the Soviet Embassy in Aden was also present at the meeting.

Brutents Departs

EA2308211788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Comrade Karen Brutents, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and deputy chief of the Central Committee International Department, left Aden this evening following a visit to Democratic Yemen that lasted several days.

In a statement to ANA Comrade Brutents praised the outcome of his visit and meetings with the comrades in the party leadership. He said he took note of the great activity and attention by our party to resolving economic problems. He appreciated the achievements of the PDRY and the friendship between the two friendly parties and countries. He stressed that his visit showed the desire of the two parties to continue developing cooperation.

He was seen off by Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq Shaf'i, member and deputy secretary of the Central Committee.

Al-Bid Receives Sudanese Envoy, Al-Mahdi Letter

EA2208162388 Aden ANA in Arabic 1325 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Aden, 22 Aug (ANA)—Comrade 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, met this morning at the Central Committee premises with Brother Dr Ibrahim al-Amin [words indistinct] and personal envoy of Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. During the meeting, the envoy delivered a letter from his brother Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi concerning bilateral and fraternal relations [words indistinct]. He also conveyed greetings from Al- Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Sudanese leadership as well as their thanks to the PDRY leadership for the material and fraternal assistance provided by the government and people in Democratic Yemen to the Sudanese people to help them overcome the disasters resulting from the floods. There was a discussion on the importance of developing relations between the two fraternal peoples. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

King Husayn Arrives, Meets With President

JN2108173788 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Aug (WAM)—His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, king of the sisterly Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived here at 1915 today on a visit to the UAE. His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, was at the head of those receiving his majesty.

Discusses Arab Issues, Ties

JN2108203988 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi—His Majesty King Husayn and His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan, president of the UAE, held a meeting at the guest palace tonight. Another meeting between the Jordanian delegation headed by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i and the UAE delegation comprising senior officials was held. The talks during these two meeting centered on developments in the Arab region and the situation in the Gulf in light of the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran, as well as various aspects of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan hosted a dinner at the guest palace in honor of His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him. The dinner was attended by a number of senior military and civilian officials. [passage omitted]

Holds 'Private Meeting,' Leaves

JN2208100888 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Excerpts] A round of talks was held at 1100 today between His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, and His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan at the guest palace. [passage omitted]

Later the two leaders held a private meeting. WAM has learned that during the meeting they continued their discussion and assessment of all issues which were under discussion during yesterday's meeting between the two leaders. They also exchanged viewpoints on means to strengthen the common Arab stand for the interest of the Arab nation.

His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan left the UAE at 1330 today for home following a visit to the country. His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, headed those who saw him off.

Somali Prime Minister Arrives for Talks

JN2108134388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Aug (WAKH)—This morning, Somali Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Samantar arrived in Abu Dhabi from Pakistan on a visit of several days to the UAE. Shaykh Surur ibn Muhammad, head of the UAE presidential office, was at the airport to greet him when he arrived.

Yemen Arab Republic

Interior Ministry Delegation To Visit Moscow

JN2008181188 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] A YAR Interior Ministry delegation is due in Moscow today for a visit lasting several days at the invitation of the Soviet Interior Ministry. Led by Colonel Muhammad 'Abdallah Salih, deputy interior minister and Standing Committee member, the delegation will discuss prospects for increased cooperation between the interior ministries in the two friendly countries. Col Salih told SABA' the visit will enable him to familiarize himself with security procedures at the Soviet Interior Ministry.

Officials Receive Syrian Economy Minister

JN2108155488 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, today received Brother Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, who is currently visiting our country. This visit paves the way for the prime minister's visit to Syria next month in response to an invitation from Syrian Prime Minister Brother Mahmud al-Zu'bi.

During the meeting, they reviewed issues related to the meetings of the joint ministerial committee of the two fraternal countries. They also reviewed bilateral relations and ways to promote and enhance them. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Brother 'Alawi al-Salami and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minsiter, development minister, head of the Central Organ of Planning, and Standing Committee member, today received Brother Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi and the accompanying delegation currently visiting our country. They discussed bilateral relations and joint cooperation in all fields between the two fraternal countries. Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Sanaa Brother Walid Rajab attended the meeting.

A meeting was held between Finance Minister Brother 'Alawi al-Salami and Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi at the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade today. At the beginning of the meeting, Brother 'Alawi al-Salami welcomed Brother Al-'Imadi and his delegation. He pointed out the visit is to consolidate growing relations between the two fraternal countries in various fields. He expressed hope that bilateral cooperation will expand and the visit will further enhance bilateral relations.

Brother Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi expressed hope cooperation between the two countries will be enhanced. He pointed out that promoting and bolstering bilateral relations will consolidate joint cooperation. He also noted that the establishment of a common market between the two countries is a way to make both countries' products familiar and will promote and entrench economic and trade relations as part of Arab integration.

The Syrian minister asserted that establishing joint projects in various fields will enhance bialteral relations. The meeting was attended by Brother 'Afif al-Barakani, undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade for trade affairs; the Ministry's directors general; 'Abdallah al-Hadrami, director general of the Military Economic Corporation; and members of the delegation accompanying the Syrian minister.

Brother Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, Syrian minister of economy and foreign trade, arrived in Sanaa this morning heading a delegation on a visit to our country lasting several days. In a statement to SABA' news agency, the Syrian minister said he will hold talks with officials in the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade dealing with enhancing economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. He was received by Finance Minister Brother 'Alawi al-Salami; Brother 'Afif al-Barakani, undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy, Supply, and Trade for trade affairs; Brother 'Ali Jabr 'Alawi, undersecretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth; and a number of officials.

Libyan Trade Official Arrives in Sanaa

JN2208193688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Brother Farahat Sharnanah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Trade in Libya, arrived in Sanaa this afternoon heading an economic delegation for a visit of several days to our country.

He told SABA' the visit marks one step on the road to following up the program of the higher joint committee on bilateral economic cooperation. He and his delegation, added Sharnanah, will probe with YAR officials avenues for expanded general commercial exchange.

On hand to welcome the Libyan secretary and delegation were Brother 'Alawi al-Salami, finance minister and the undersecretary at the Economy Ministry, other officials, and the secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau in Sanaa.

Meets Prime Minister

JN2308141288 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, today received Brother Farhat Sharnanah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade in Libya, who is currently visiting our country.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues related to bolstering and improving relationships and issues relating to accords signed during the meeting of the YAR-Libya joint committee. The meeting was attended by Finance Minister Brother 'Alawi al-Salami and Brother Salim Muhammad Wali, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau [as heard] in Sanaa.

Discusses Economic Relations

JN2308214088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] A meeting was held today in the Central Planning Organ between Brother Minister of Finance 'Alawi Salih al-Salami and Brother Farhat Sharnanah, secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, who is visiting our country heading an economic and financial delegation.

At the beginning of the meeting, the brother finance minister welcomed the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy in Libya and his

accompanying delegation. He explained that this meeting will have positive results which will benefit both peoples of the two fraternal countries in light of thedevelopment of good fraternal relations between the two countries due to mutual interest, brotherhood, and friendship between the two brothers, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, secretary general of the General People's Congress, and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution in Libya. He said this meeting comes within the framework of serious follow-ups to implement the results of meeting of the Arab Libyan-Yemeni Joint Higher Committee.

The Libyan official expressed hope this meeting would strengthen and develop cooperation in various fields, especially in economic and trade relations, encouraging trade exchange, and establishing joint companies to strengthen fraternal relations between the two fraternal nations.

After that, they discussed economic and financial relations and trade exchange between the two countries. Two committees were formed: the first to study cooperation in the financial and investment fields and the second to study cooperation in the economic field. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry on Cease-Fire 'Violation'
JN2308184088 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 Aug

[Statement by an official spokesman for the Foreign Ministry; date not given]

[Text] The Iranian side has perpetrated another cease-fire violation. After the formal cease-fire had taken effect, the Iranian side pushed troop formations of its forces estimated as one regiment from their previous positions to new positions in the no-man's land in front of our troops which belong to the IV Army Corps in the ('Ayn Jizah) area. The UN observers' team was notified of this violation. This team exerted persistent efforts during the past 2 days to make the Iranians return to their previous positions, but to no avail. Hence, our forces were forced to take the required measures to restore the situation to normal. The situation was restored to its previous status.

Foreign Minister Heads Delegation to Geneva Talks
JN2408124988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1231 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—An Iraqi official delegation under Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Baghdad for Geneva this afternoon to participate in the direct negotiations that will be held with the Iranian side there under the auspices of the UN secretary general tomorrow, Thursday.

Ambassador to U.S. Interviewed on Talks at UN
PM2308143288 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-23 Aug 88 pp15, 16

[Unattributed interview with 'Abd al-Amir al-Anbari, ambassador to the United States and member of the delegation to the United Nations, in Washington; date not given]

[Text] [AL-MAJALLAH] What did you tell the UN secretary general on the first day of negotiations?

[Al-Anbari] The Iraqi delegation emphasized Iraq's declared position, namely, the need to hold direct negotiations between the two countries at a political, ministerial level. This is for two purposes: first, to be certain whether Iran has good intentions or just wants to take a breather and then continue the war. This was the Iraqi delegation's fundamental point, namely, not to allow Iran to interpret the Security Council resolution as a temporary truce rather than an end to the war.

We told the secretary general that direct—that is face to face—negotiations are a means of testing good intentions through questions and answers exchanged with the other party, whose maneuvers and attitudes will also demonstrate its degree of good will. There is another objective of equal importance, namely, a joint understanding on the Security Council resolution because, like any other Security Council resolutions, Resolution 598 does not cover all details. Our experience with Iran since Resolution 598 was adopted indicates that Iran hesitated to accept the resolution, and before that it tried to obstruct its adoption.

[AL-MAJALLAH] How did the UN secretary general react?

[Al-Anbari] The UN secretary general has his own method of dealing with the problems assigned to him. This method is influenced by both his diplomatic approach and his personality. We believe that Perez de Cuellar makes good use of convenient circumstances during negotiations. He did not use special methods such as bringing the two parties together in his office, moving between the two parties, and so forth. It seems that at the beginning the secretary general heeded Iran's view that our demand for direct negotiations was a precondition for implementing Resolution 598, though the resolution did not broach the means of negotiation.

[AL-MAJALLAH] A week of negotiations took place during which the Iraqi delegation did not meet with the UN secretary general, whereas the Iranians held many meetings with him.

[Al-Anbari] Since the outset the Iraqi delegation has presented its viewpoint and let the secretary general, the major countries that are permanent members of the Security Council, Yugoslavia, and Algeria—which represent the nonaligned states at regular sessions of the Security Council—exchange contacts to reach a suitable solution.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why did the secretary general issue his report accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons at that particular time? Did he intend to put pressure on Iraq?

[Al-Anbari] The secretary general sent a commission to examine the facts about the use of chemical weapons. The commission returned with the results and began to prepare its report. It seems that the report was issued late for technical reasons relating to the French translation. Probably it would have been better if the report had not been released at that particular time, since the Security Council members, Iraq, and Iran were busy with their endeavors to secure an agreement.

[AL-MAJALLAH] There have been statements and hints in the U.S. press about pressures exerted on Iraq by the U.S. Administration. How true is this?

[Al-Anbari] Iraq was not pressured by any quarter. The impression we formed during our contacts with the Americans is that they support our position, which is to insist on direct negotiations. U.S. officials referred to their experience with the Iranians as well as nonconfidence in them, and they doubted their intentions, especially following the Irangate scandal.

[AL-MAJALLAH] It was said that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz sent messages to several Arab states urging them to make contacts with Iraq during the negotiations. Did these messages embody any pressures?

[Al-Anbari] I do not know anything about these messages. Anyhow, the U.S. secretary of state was on a tour of Central and South America at that time. And as I have said, there has been no pressure on Iraq from any quarter. As for Arab contacts, these are not new; they represent a continuation of Arab support for Iraq's position. Within this context an Arab League delegation headed by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faysal made a visit to Baghdad. The delegation also visited Washington. All this was part of brotherly Arab coordination to stop Iran's expansionist schemes.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why did Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz travel to Baghdad during negotiations?

[Al-Anbari] Certain developments occurred and the Iraqi leadership decided to summon the foreign minister for consultations. Before his departure he informed the UN secretary general of this.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Why was Geneva chosen for the next stage of negotiations?

[Al-Anbari] Switzerland is known for its neutrality. The international and informational atmosphere there is suitable. Also, we need to avoid an atmosphere like New York, where rumors spread and could affect negotiations.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What will Iraq request at the negotiating table in Geneva?

[Al-Anbari] We will continue the same line, committed to direct negotiations after a cease-fire is established. We will demand that the Iranian naval siege on Iraq be lifted, whether in Shatt al-'Arab or the Straight of Hormuz. This is in addition to clearing Shatt al-'Arab under UN supervision, since the 8-year war has left 93 ships out of action.

[AL-MAJALLAH] The UN secretary general complains of a deficit in the organization's budget. So how will the United Nations be able to fulfill peace obligations?

[Al-Anbari] Funds may not be a problem. Procedures will be lengthy and complicated. But preparations must be made and plans must be drawn up immediately after the cease-fire.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Where will you start from in Geneva: the clearing of Shatt al-'Arab or an exchange of POW's?

[Al-Anbari] We will begin by demanding Iraq's shipping rights, the clearing of Shatt al-Arab, and then a withdrawal to international boundaries. Security Council Resolution 598 resembles a 9-story building in which the 4th or the 5th floor cannot be built before the 1st and 2d floors are built.

[AL-MAJALLAH] When will a committee be formed to investigate who started the war?

[Al-Anbari] Clause 6 of the resolution calls on the secretary general to conduct consultations between the two sides and assign a neutral body for investigation to determine who started the war. This is a long and complex process in terms of where the committee would be based, its members, the method of investigation, and so on. Perhaps an agreement could be reached to assign an existing organization, such as the International Court of Justice, to carry out this task.

The important thing is that the investigation is objective and settles the matter, not only in respect of present conflicts, but to record facts for history so that future generations will know who the aggressor was. But the Iranians must accept the neutrality of the committee and the neutrality of its decisions. This is one of the points that made us wait to be certain of Iran's intentions.

When the Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i visited the United Nations last September and met with the secretary general, the latter asked: What would your position be if the committee condemned Iran? Khamene'i replied: It will not be accepted; it will prove that the committee is not neutral. Iran insisted that the committee condemn Iraq—a condition that logically cannot be accepted.

[AL-MAJALLAH] When will an exchange of POW's be discussed in the Geneva negotiations?

[Al-Anbari] This is another point to test Iranian intentions during the New York negotiations. We were calling for a cease-fire with guarantees that direct negotiations be expedited. But they were calling for a cease-fire, withdrawal to international boundaries, an exchange of POW's, and then direct negotiations. But we insisted on direct negotiations before an exchange of POW's. Another point is that the Red Cross committee which visited Iran more than once discovered that 7,000 POW's were missing. But until now Iran has not put forward a convincing response. Therefore, it could take some time before this problem is resolved to ensure the return of all POW's.

[AL-MAJALLAH] What about withdrawal to international boundaries?

[Al-Anbari] One of the reasons we have no confidence in Iran is that in the past it sent official messages to the UN secretary general stating that there were no international

boundaries between the two countries. The Iraqi position is clear: agreement on recognized international boundaries. There are maps and documents to determine this. Land borders are clear. But there is dispute over territorial waters in Shatt al-Arab.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Did the Algiers agreement not deal with this problem?

[Al-Anbari] Before the Algiers agreement (1975) Iran declared that it washed its hands of the 1937 agreement. Whereas Iraq remained committed to it, emphasizing that Iran's withdrawal from the agreement is illegitimate. The Algiers agreement, reached during the shah's era through [late] Algerian President Houari Boumedienne, secured some gains for Iran in Shatt al-Arab. But it also stipulated that the two countries must not interfere in each other's affairs.

The first thing Khomeyni did when he assumed power was support the elements hostile to Iraq and declare his aggressive and expansionist intentions toward Iraq and the rest of the Arab states. The boundaries issue is a complicated one and it will be some time before it can be settled.

[AL-MAJALLAH] Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the negotiations?

[Al-Anbari] Objectively I am optimistic. But we must be cautious of Iran's intentions, which we hope are sincere after the step it has taken. The road to peace is tiring and long.

Saddam Husayn, Yasir 'Arafat Discuss Arab Issues

JN2308115988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat congratulated President Saddam Husayn on the great victories Iraq achieved by liberating its national soil, which represent the Arab nation's victory over its enemies. During the meeting, the two sides stressed the common pan-Arab destiny and discussed the current Arab situation.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended the meeting.

Sudanese State Minister Arrives, Meets Officials

JN2108191588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih, Sudan's minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Baghdad this afternoon for a visit of several days to Iraq. On hand to greet him was the Foreign Ministry undersecretary.

Talks With Ramadan

JN2208192788 Baghdad INA in English 1425 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 22, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council (RCC), Iraqi first deputy premier, today received here Mr. Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese minister of state for foreign affairs. [title as received]

Mr. Ramadan reiterated to the Sudanese minister Iraq's eagerness to develop and cement relations with the Sudan and all brotherly Arab countries in harmony with its pan- Arab principles, principles to which Iraq had adhered at the time of war and peace. The Iraqi first deputy premier referred to efforts of the Iraqi command to establish peace and its approval of international resolutions which had won it esteem and appreciation of the whole world. Mr. Ramadan also assured the Sudanese official that Iraq would continue its sincere efforts to bring about lasting, comprehensive and just peace.

The Sudanese minister extended to the Iraqi people and command, on behalf of the government and people of the Sudan, congratulations on the great victories that have opened up the gate of peace. The Sudanese official described victories scored by the Armed Forces of Iraq as a source of pride for all Arabs. The Sudanese official renewed thanks and appreciation of the leadership and people of the Sudan to Iraq for the assistance and aid airlifted to the Sudanese people and [as received] markedly contributed to easing hardships faced by the Sudan due to recent floods in country.

Delivers Messages to President

JN2308102588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received two messages from Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani and from Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party leader Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, today. The first message deals with relations between the two fraternal countries and the Arab situation in general.

Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani's envoy to President Saddam Husayn and minister of state at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, delivered the messages. Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih conveyed to the president the congratulations of the Sudanese Government, people, and chairman on the great victory the Iraqis achieved through their patience and persistent struggle for a just and lasting peace. He stressed that Iraq's victory is for all Arabs, their glory, and sovereignty. He also reiterated Sudan's thanks and appreciation for Iraq's support and aid to Sudan during its current ordeal which is the result of floods in fraternal Sudan.

Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2408093588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0805 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 24 Aug (INA)—Taj al-Sirr Muhammad Salih, Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani's envoy to President Saddam Husayn and minister of state at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, left Baghdad today. [passage omitted]

Government Releases Food, Commodities to People

JN2008193788 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] At instructions of leader President Saddam Husayn and in celebration of the great victory, the Ministry of Trade has begun to release goods and commodities to citizens through the approved distribution outlets such as agents and central markets. Two convoys of trucks—laden with various commodities and foodstuffs; construction, medical, and electric tools; and car tires—set out in the greatest campaign Baghdad has ever seen to supply the agents directly and ensure the delivery of these stuffs as soon as possible.

This will be considered an additional share to the commodities earmarked for them in distribution centers and will enable the citizens to obtain goods and commodities with ease. The two convoys drove through the Al-Karkh and Al-Rusafah Streets in a great carnival amid the cheering of the citizens who shouted slogans in praise of leader President Saddam Husayn.

Paper Warns Against 'Any Attempt To Save' Iran

JN2108072288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0541 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH today warns against any attempt to save Iran from the state of deterioration it is suffering after its comprehensive and devastating defeat before Iraq.

In its editorial, the paper says that it is Iraq's right to monitor any foreign and international contact with or move toward Iran under its current circumstances and before the beginning of direct negotiations.

The paper says that the moves, contacts, and statements aimed at improving relations with Iran before the beginning of direct negotiations constitute explicit support for Iran and expose encouragement for it not to march ahead sincerely on the path of peace, whose first essential steps began yesterday.

The paper reviewed some of these moves and contacts. It indicated in particular statements by a number of senior officials of some international powers that call for improving relations with Iran and opening a dialogue with it, and to the ongoing bargains over the fate of the hostages held in Lebanon.

The paper says nobody in the capitals of these states anymore condemns the state Iranian terrorism or the exposed Iranian extortion through kidnapping and holding hostages upon orders issued from Tehran. At the same time, nobody in Tehran curses or remembers the arch satan anymore. The paper affirms that the objective of all of this is to award or compensate Iran for its consent to the UN resolution which it continued to reject for a whole year.

Paper Urges Iran To Stop 'Rattling Firearms'

JN2308112188 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 23, INA—An Iraqi paper urged the Iranian regime to abandon the techniques of threatening and rattling firearms, saying he who wanted to deal with Iraq along the peace path should do so.

AL-THAWRAH paper, in an editorial published here today, said Iraq did not allow anyone to rattle firearms along its border neither would it show leniency in front of threats.

The Iranian regime was continuing its pleas for military and psychological mobilization, a thing which reflected the Iranian regime's persistence in the course of expansionism and aggression, AL-THAWRAH mentioned.

The daily said that Iraq, being aware of all facts and having them in mind, took into consideration the fact that the peace road might not be an easy one and might pass through turns and run into difficulties, yet, the daily added, Iraq, which had trust in its abilities, was sure that it could extract its full political rights.

Iraq fully regained and liberated its land and totally paralysed the Iranian enemy militarily before forcing it to accept Resolution No 598, effect a ceasefire and start direct negotiations, AL-THAWRAH stressed.

Iraq loves life... Iraq is able to fully attain its just and legitimate goals, to build life and, at the same time, to maintain the joy of victory... Iraq has emerged victorious politically and militarily from the war, AL-THAWRAH mentioned.

Effecting a ceasefire was the first essential step along the peace path... ceasaefire was the step which opened the doors for those who wanted to have peace, AL-THAWRAH remarked, adding, hence, he who was interested in peace should make sound steps to place Iraq-Iran relations within a new framework other than that of slogans of expansionism and aggression.

Officially, the war between Iraq and Iran had not come to an end and the step of effecting ceasefire might lead to lasting, comprehensive and complete peace or they might go back on their word, thus, one should be on his guard, AL-THAWRAH stressed.

Iraqis welcomed U.N. forces, received them with joy and cordiality and offered facilities to them, AL-THAWRAH noted, adding that these forces are now standing on a firm, liberated Iraqi soil... the soil of peace created by Iraqis when they defeated their enemy, drove it out of their territory and imposed peace on it.

Iraq, thanks to its victorious leader Saddam Husayn and its people and armed forces, was able to extract just, enduring, complete and comprehensive peace, AL-THAWRAH reiterated.

PLO Claims Responsibility for Haifa Attack

NC2308110288 Paris AFP in English 1045 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tunis, Aug 23 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on Tuesday claimed responsibility for Saturday's grenade attack in Haifa that injured 25 people, and said Israeli secret service agents were among those hurt.

The attack in Israel's northern port of Haifa was aimed at a group of Israeli secret service agents, the PLO said in a communique published here by the Palestinian news agency WAFA.

"Several members of the Israeli secret service were wounded, some of them seriously," the report said quoting the military spokesman of the PLO's general command.

"This heroic operation ... falls within the framework of the escalation of Palestinian military action against the Zionist enemy until the victory of our people and the creation of an independent Palestinian state led by the PLO, its sole legitimate representative," the statement added.

The report said the attack was launched by a "special unit of the Abu Jihad martyr group," in reference to slain PLO leader Abu Jihad, born Khalil al-Wazir.

The Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal on Sunday claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was carried out by the Naji al-'Ali group, part of a larger group named for Abu Jihad.

Israel's Minister of Police Haim Bar-Lev said Sunday that three Palestinians from the West Bank had been detained in connection with the explosion.

Bomb Safely Defused in Tel Aviv 24 Aug

TA2408103288 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] An explosive charge placed on Ranak Street in Tel Aviv was safely defused this morning. The small bomb, concealed in a plastic bag, was planted near cooking gas cylinders at 2 Ranak Street. Neighborhood residents who spotted the suspicious looking objected summoned the police. Yarkon District bomb disposal experts defused it. No damage was caused.

'Arafat Remarks Cause No Change in Funds Policy

TA2408102588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] In view of Yasir 'Arafat's declaration on the PLO's decision to pay the salaries of those inhabitants of the territories who have been laid off their jobs, security sources told our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi that Israel will not change its policy on the transfer of money into the territories. Israel will continue to stem the flow of PLO funds into the territories by every means, the security sources said.

Territories Chief on Payment

TA2408125488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of activities in the territories, has said that Israel will not allow the PLO to bring in money for the salaries of civil servants dismissed by Jordan. I do not understand the PLO, said Goren. On the one hand, it demands that the civil servants resign and on the other it promises to pay their salaries.

Goren made these remarks to Ibrahim Shahid, the Voice of Israel's Arabic reporter, during a visit with the Bani Na'im family of (Khasawna). He was accompanied by Shay Erez, head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration, and by an Air Force representative.

The three officials expressed regret at the injuries sustained by the family's three daughters and the damage caused by last week's aircraft accident. Goren promised that the family will be compensated for the damages, and the child who lost her sight will have a guaranteed source of income. The family members thanked him for the promised assistance.

Peres Briefs Foreign Affairs, Defense Committee

TA2308113388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Report by Shlomo Raz]

[Text] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, reminded Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee members today that a Palestinian government has already existed. That was in the 1950's. The Palestinian state is not viable: it constitutes a threat to Israel, is dangerous for Jordan, and contravenes UN Security Council Resolution 242. Peres also reported that the Untied States has announced its continued adherence to the Shultz plan. It has not changed its opinion on the need to support the entire package. In view of the new situation, Mr Peres has decided to send Abba Eban on an information campaign in Europe.

[Begin Peres recording] In view of the rather intensive information campaign currently under way by the PLO in Europe, Israel must provide a balance. I believe Mr Eban can do the job admirably. Even during an election period, one should not forget for a moment that there is also the external front. I believe Mr Eban's contribution will be extremely important at this time. [end recording]

As foreign minister, Peres has the prerogative to send Mr Eban. Shim'on Peres does not advocate resuming the settlement drive. Nor can he get at all enthusiastic about the prime minister's remarks that the uprising could go on for 9 years.

[Begin Peres recording] Is it his vision that the intifada [uprising] should last for 9 years? Is this the specter that we would present to the nation, the new immigrants, or the Soviet Jews? What kind of an image is that to conjure up? [end recording]

During the session, the foreign minister took issue with several committee members. Speaking to Rabbi Druckman, he said: Judaism gives top priority to the sanctity of the nation. Yosi Sarid asked: Which Palestinians will Mr Peres talk to? He rules out the PLO, the Islamic Jihad, the local committees, and the detainees and deportees. To that Peres replied: The PLO is a reflection of Lebanon, where internal strife precludes any decision.

More on Peres Remarks

TA2308153188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Report by Knesset correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Excerpts] Opening his address at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Minister Peres stressed that the Foreign Ministry has decided to avoid dramatizing the declarations made by Husayn and the PLO. It is no use being edgy, said the foreign minister, adding that quiet information campaigns with regard to the PLO are what is now necessary. Minister Peres took the opportunity to complain that his Ministry's budget is smaller from that of the Ministry of Religion, which damages his information campaigns. [passage omitted]

Leaving the conference room, Shim'on Peres replied to Shamir's remarks that settlement [in the territories] should be increased:

This is a dreadful vision. If settlement is indeed resumed, the nation should be told: Let us forget about peace.

Shamir Sends Congratulations to Ceausescu

TA2408112288 Tel Aviv HA'ZOFE in Hebrew 24 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday sent a congratulatory cable to Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu on the occasion of Romania's independence day. He conveyed the hope that the friendly relations between the two countries will flourish and develop.

The prime minister seized the opportunity to express his appreciation for the president's attitude to the Jewish Romanian community.

Rabin Urges Focus on Northern Border Security

TA2308180888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the political developments in Lebanon are no longer Israel's affair. Speaking during a tour of the security zone in South Lebanon, Rabin said that Israel should be concerned only with the security of the northern border. The defense minister stressed that the terrorist organizations are continuing to operate from Lebanon, and therefore thousands of Israeli soldiers are needed to defend the northern border.

El Al Flights to South Africa Opposed

TA2308141588 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday conveyed to Transportation Minister Hayim Corfu's office its firm opposition to the expansion of air links between Israel and South Africa. This is in reaction to Minister Corfu's remarks yesterday following the expected arrangement that would add a regularly-scheduled weekly El Al flight to South Africa.

It became apparent that on 7 August, Yosef Hadas, assistant director of the Asia-Africa Division in the Foreign Ministry, sent a letter to Ya'aqov Dovev, head of El Al's marketing division, saying that the expansion of air links with South Africa contravenes the government's resolutions concerning this country. In addition, such a step might create diplomatic difficulties due to the fact that most Western countries have reduced air links with South Africa.

Dr Alon Li'el, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, denied Corfu's allegations that he had heard no such reservation from the Foreign Ministry. According to the spokesman, reservations have been expressed on more than one occasion, some addressed directly to El Al.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday warned that such an expansion might have negative consequences in terms of air links with Canada, the United States, Australia, and Scandinavia. These countries have forced their airlines to slash flights to South Africa. El Al's step, therefore, could be interpreted as taking advantage of the other companies' cutbacks.

The spokesman also said that the Foreign Ministry is well aware of the importance of maintaining ties with South African Jewry and of the need to add flights to meet demand. Nevertheless, according to Li'el, ad hoc solutions have been found in the past, and could be kept up in the future as well.

The Foreign Ministry also warned that Western countries are very sensitive to the South African issue, mainly in connection with the Seoul games. Israel is about to face a hearing with the Olympic Games Committee following a tour of South Africa by Israeli boxers.

Turkish Ship Smuggling Drugs Intercepted

TA1908141988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] A Turkish ship operated by smugglers was intercepted by the Israeli Navy early this morning. One of the crew was killed and another wounded. Our Army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe has the details.

[Begin recording] The incident took place at approximately 0200 this morning. Navy ships detected a suspicious ship south of Ashqelon. In accordance with regulations, the Navy ordered it to stop. Warning shots were fired, and when the ship did not respond, fire was opened on the ship. At that point the ship halted. It transpired that two of the crew were hurt as a result of the fire. One of them was killed, and another was severely wounded and transferred to the hospital.

The ship was directed to the Ashdod port. During an initial investigation it was learned that the ship in question operates under the Turkish flag and is in use by smugglers. About 2 tons of hashish were found on board the ship. The ship is presently anchored at the Ashdod Port. The investigation was passed from Army to police hands. The Turkish ship's crew is being interrogated. Upon completing the interrogation the crew will probably be expelled from Israel. [end recording]

Members of Crew Identified

TA2008180888 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1520 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Ankara, (AA)—The Foreign Ministry has announced that seaman Naif Suleyman Zara was killed and Mahmut Yusuf Sahin was wounded when an Israeli patrol boat fired at a Turkish ship the night before last.

The Foreign Ministry statement noted that the clear identities and addresses of the dead and wounded and the rest of the crew have not yet been determined.

According to the statement, the ship was carrying narcotics and the four members of the crew who were detained are Nasser Kaptan, Tahsin Kolac Yahya, Suleyman Halis, and Sabah Yusuf.

Navy Commander on Moves Against Terrorists, Drugs

TA2308102788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Navy Commander Rear Admiral Avraham Ben-Shoshan has said that over the past 3 years, 58 terrorists were killed and more than 100 detained in naval operations. Speaking to our correspondent Karmela Menashe on the occasion of Navy Week, Adm Ben-Shoshan added that in the past 12 months, more than 10 vessels used by smugglers have been intercepted. They were conveying large quantities of narcotics.

Regarding the implications of the Gulf war, the Navy commander said that Iran and Iraq have both been exposed to advanced Western technologies, which could reach the wrong hands. As far as Israel is concerned, this constitutes a real threat. The characteristics of terrorist attacks have also changed. Thus, for example, the use of underwater mining methods borrowed from the Gulf war is relatively new.

Adm Ben-Shoshan hopes that by year's end, the contract on equipping the Navy with new weapons will be signed. In this context, he added that the terrorists have been employing various types of boats and are making substantial efforts to invest resources, training, and manpower in developing better capabilities.

Comments on Missile Procurement

TA2308180788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] In October 1988 the Navy will begin receiving Dvora-type patrol craft, which are upgraded Dabur boats. On the occasion of the corps day tomorrow, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Avraham Ben-Shoshan said that the Arab navies are equipped with the most updated Western weapons. Our correspondent Asaf Ashkenazi reports:

[Begin recording] [Ashkenazi] The testing of the Dvora, a fast patrol boat equipped with modern armament systems, will soon be concluded. The boat will be launched by the Navy in October. The Dvora is superior to the existing Dabur and is marked by improved engineering for the human factor. This information was imparted by Navy Commander Avraham Ben-Shoshan on the occasion of the Navy Day tomorrow.

He added that the Arab countries are in the process of reinforcing and enlarging their navies. The Libyan Navy has been purchasing sophisticated and expensive systems with which it attempts to cover up for the relatively low quality of its personnel. Adm Ben-Shoshan noted that Libya endangers Israel's safety from the sea.

[Ben-Shoshan] The Libyan threat lies, first of all, in the fact that a vast distance separates us. There is nothing to warn us of their coming, and no prior coordination is needed for their participation in a war against us—and they have already done that.

[Ashkenazi] The terrorists, too, are equipped with naval warfare means. They have bought rubber boats, speedboats, and other naval weapons from the West. Some of the organizations train officers and marine commanders on a regular basis. They send their cadets to naval academies in Arab countries and East Europe.

As for the Navy's procurement project, Adm Ben-Shoshan says that the contract for the weapons' construction must be signed by the end of the year. During the negotiations, we were accused of changing the boats' specifications. We have proved this is not true. Ben-Shoshan added that the Americans support the project.

[Ben-Shoshan] The very fact that the Americans have consented to our using military aid funds to construct our order of battle is a big help, both in principle and in practice. I think their consent is unique in that it reflects their awareness of the need for a strong and modern navy, which is vital for our country. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 23 August adds: "The Navy is currently completing the development of the Baraq antimissile missile system, which will be used by the Navy in the early 1990's. This was said today by Navy Commander Rear Admiral Avraham Ben-Shoshan. The Baraq missile is capable of hitting missiles, ships, and aircraft at ranges up to 12 km. It carries a warhead charged with 22 kg of explosive and is equipped with computerized radar and fire control systems which control its flight. According to experts, these systems are similar to those currently developed in the framework of the U.S. SDI project."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1605 GMT on 23 August carries an excerpt of the news conference held by Ben-Shoshan in which he notes: "Syria poses a real threat to us. The Syrian Navy is developing. It follows its training programs, it continues to cooperate with the Russians, and it proceeds with its buildup and continues to acquire new and more advanced vessels. We have no doubt that the process of acquiring more sophisticated vessels will eventually bring first-rate Russian vessels to this arena, and we will have to find the response to the most advanced Eastern technology."]

IDF Policy on Searches in Mosques Explained

TA2408063788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Aug 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by defense correspondent Kenneth Kaplan]

[Text] The IDF recently uncovered a cache of weapons in a Gaza mosque and has stumbled upon other stores of homemade explosive devices. Local commanders said these discoveries indicate that residents are planning to step up armed attacks on soldiers.

In a search of a mosque in the centre of Gaza City early in the morning of August 12, soldiers found six pipe bombs ready for use, a bag of gunpowder used to prepare explosive charges, packages of fire-crackers, as well as black paint, video cassettes and other materials suspected of being used for propaganda purposes. The pipe bombs used match heads as an explosive.

No action was taken against the mosque, called by soldiers the "Yellow Mosque", military sources said.

They stressed that the IDF very rarely searches mosques and weighs each decision to enter and search a mosque very carefully. Only the most senior authorities can order a search.

Once the decision is taken, an IDF representative enters the building together with representatives of the Civil Administration and of the mosque itself.

Last week, troops carrying out a routine search of a house in the Gaza Strip found an unspecified number of small home-made grenades.

The sources did not say how effective these devices were, but said it was clear they were meant to be used against patrols on foot and in command cars.

According to a commander whose unit has served a number of times in Gaza since the beginning of the uprising, these recent discoveries raise expectations of an increase in the number and severity of armed attacks against Israeli troops stationed there.

"We knew from the beginning of the intifada [uprising] that as soon as the mass protests were over the activity would develop into armed attacks on soldiers," the commander said.

In the past there have been only a handful of cases where the IDF has discovered arms caches in mosques, the military sources said. In most of the cases the searches uncovered fuel for preparing petrol bombs, as well as leaflets and other propaganda material. The sources said no punishments were handed out in the earlier incidents.

Local sources said that two months ago some 20 petrol bombs were discovered in another Gaza mosque.

The sources said the local residents are aware of the IDF's sensitivity concerning holy sites and religious issues and use it to their advantage.

During a tour of Gaza this week, a local commander pointed to the roof of a mosque from which stones are thrown. He said youths sneak into the mosque, which is adjacent to a main street, and climb on the roof to throw stones, some of them quite large.

A senior defence official last night played down the significance of the arms cache in the Yellow Mosque. He noted that there has been an appreciable rise in extremist religious activity in both Gaza and the West Bank, but said the latest cache does not signal an increase in activity.

Mosques have been used periodically since the beginning of the uprising as hiding and meeting places with the knowledge that the IDF hesitates to search them, he said. From time to time loudspeakers atop minarets were used to incite crowds to riot.

"It would be very serious if they turned the mosques into bases, something I hope they do not do," he said. "We have warned them and explained to them not to do so.

"For the time being, I see no reason to deal with the problem."

Foreign Ministry Says Deportations Legal

TA2408085788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Here is the first official Israeli reaction to the U.S. demand that the deportation orders issued against 25 residents of the territories be revoked.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Alon Li'el says that Israel does not accept the U.S. interpretation of the international law concerning deportations. The Foreign Ministry spokesman notes that Israel and the United States have been divided over the interpretation of this law for some time. According to him, the legal aspect of the deportations has recently been looked into by the High Court of Justice. The court determined that the deportations are legal, according to both Israeli and international laws. Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel brought this first official Israeli reaction.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

West Bank Associations Closed

TA2308190088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Central Command Commander 'Amram Mitzna' today issued orders for the closure of the offices of three associations—in Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm. According to military sources, the closure was ordered on the grounds that the associations were the scene of extensive activities aimed at promoting the goals of terrorist organizations. Metal spikes and chains, screwdrivers, and homemade explosives detonators used by rioters were found at the offices of the Qalqilyah Environment Preservation Association, for example.

Defense sources have told our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat that the closure is part of the recently adopted policy aimed at the popular committees in the territories.

'Calm' in Territories

TA2308154288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] A relative calm was maintained today throughout Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Many workers left for their jobs in Israel, and commerce was lively in shops and markets.

Some slight disturbances occurred in the Gaza Strip, but in general a relative quiet prevailed following the tension which marked the past few days.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that curfews remain in force in three Samarian refugee camps—Tulkarm, Balatah, and Al-Am'ari, and in the Gaza Strip refugee camps of Al-Shati', Jabalyah, and Al-Burayj, as well as the Gaza city neighborhood of Al-Shaykh Radwan.

The IDF spokesman's representative in the Gaza Strip has said that there is no truth in the reports published by foreign new agencies claiming that Gaza Strip residents were wounded or killed today.

5 Abu Nidal Men Held

TA2408094388 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Aug 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, Avino'am Bar-Yosef, and Ehud Rabinowitz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The security forces recently uncovered a terrorist squad whose members belong to the Abu Nidal organization. They intended to assassinate Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj and journalist Hanna Sinyurah for their political views. All five squad members have been detained; indictments against them have been submitted to military courts in the territories. The Nabulus military court yesterday extended the detention of one member of the squad, Ibrahim Awwad, 32, from the Tulkarm district, until the end of the proceedings against him.

The indictment reveals that the defendant was recruited in 1985 by Sadiq Mas'ud 'Udda, a senior member of the organization. According to his instructions, Awwad ordered another member of the squad to rent an apartment opposite Frayj's residence and follow his moves so that he could carry out the assassination. A short time later, the defendant ordered two other members of the squad to keep track of Hanna Sinyurah. A week later the two reported to the defendant that they could not approach Sinyurah because they feared being exposed by the Shin Bet.

When this plan failed, the squad members planned to assassinate a resident of Qalqilyah on suspicion that he was cooperating with the authorities. The defendant provided the other two with a 9-mm handgun and ammunition to carry out the mission. The security forces captured the squad members, except for the defendant, before they managed to carry out their plan. Awwad pursued his activities, reporting to his organization on the security situation in the territories, until the beginning of this month, when the security forces captured him as well. [passage omitted]

General Strike in West Bank

TA2408104088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[Text] Palestinian activists again proved that although they cannot order the Arabs of the territories to confront soldiers, they can ensure the observance of general

strikes. Yesterday the call by the uprising leadership for Arabs to throw firebombs at soldiers was ignored, but today's call for a general strike in the territories was largely observed. All stores were closed in Judaea and Samaria, Arab transportation was shut down, and few workers left for their jobs in Israel.

Military sources say for the most part the laborers did not choose to stay home—they were forced to. In several villages around Hebron, including Dura, Palestinian activists prevented laborers from boarding buses. In Nabulus, the activists stoned buses in the surrounding villages of 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' and Ra's al-'Ayn. In Tulkarm, three Arab laborers were injured by flying glass when their bus was stoned.

The result: Workers in the Bethlehem and Nabulus areas stayed home from work; those in Ramallah, Qalqilyah, and Janin managed to report to their jobs. Many of the municipalities remained open, however, despite the strike. The exceptions, again, were the cities where the intifada [uprising] leadership appears strongest: Ramallah, 'Anabta, and Tulkarm. In Nabulus, the municipal building was open, but practically no one showed up for work.

Security forces are maintaining a curfew on the Al-Am'ari camp near Al-Birah, as well as the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus, and in the refugee camp in Qalqilyah. In the Jericho area, roads were blocked and PLO flags were hung on electricity poles.

In the Gaza Strip, military sources say most Arab laborers reported to their jobs in Israel and the commercial strike in the area was partial—another sign of the differences between the pro-PLO uprising leadership in Judaea and Samaria, and the Islamic movement in the Gaza Strip.

'Terror Cells' Uncovered

TA2408043188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Excerpts] Security forces captured several terrorist cells in the Samaria District which were said to have thrown bombs at Israeli buses as well as attacked Arabs accused of collaborating with Israel. At the same time, security forces took new steps in their offensive against the outlawed popular committees in the territories. We have more from our reporter in the territories, Steve Rodan:

[Begin recording] The first group of terror cells captured were in the Janin area. Military sources said the cells comprised of six members, all of them belonging to the Fatah wing of the PLO. The cells are alleged to have carried out several terror attacks against Israeli targets since March. Some examples: the hurling of a bomb at an Israeli bus near the Jewish settlement of Homesh on 25 June; the hurling of a firebomb at an Egged bus near Homesh on 8 June; and the hurling of a firebomb at the home of a suspected Arab collaborator with Israel on 3 March.

Security forces say they found a homemade bomb ready for use by the terror cell in the home of one of its members.

This morning the Army announced the capture of another group of terror cells, this time operating in the Al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah. The members of these cells allegedly operated on orders of a local popular committee. Their activities included directing violent demonstrations against Israeli troops and attacking suspected collaborators with Israel in Al-Jalazun. In one case a suspected collaborator was stabbed.

Last night security forces demolished the homes of three members of the gang. [passage omitted]

In the Gaza Strip, security forces arrested about 40 members of local popular committees. But security forces acknowledged that the committees were taken over by new members and are continuing to direct what they describe as an escalation of violence in the Strip, especially in the refugee camps around Gaza city. Security sources say the popular committees there are proving extremely difficult to eliminate, but they promise that they will carry out more arrests. [end recording]

345 Dead in 'Uprising'

TA2408081988 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 24 Aug 88 p 5

[Report by Orit Zerubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 22 August, the 259th day of the uprising, the IDF spokesman reported 197 Palestinian casualties. This figure does not include those killed by settlers' shots and by other means.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities since the beginning of the uprising is 268.

Palestinian sources, on the other hand, report 345 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

—226 fatalities from shots fired by IDF soldiers and settlers.

—61 fatalities from tear gas asphyxiation.

—30 fatalities from beatings and electrocutions.

—28 fatalities from other reasons.

Rabin Says IDF Qezi'ot Actions 'Within Law'

TA2308145688 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] No commission of inquiry is necessary to investigate the events in the Qezi'ot detention camp, said Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz heard the minister during a tour in the north:

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the Qezi'ot detention camp serves the IDF in its struggle against civilian violence in the territories. The Qezi'ot detainees live in the conditions of a military lockup facility. This facility is in accordance with international law.

[Rabin] There has been only one serious outburst of violence. I am sorry it happened. I believe that the measures taken by the IDF soldiers and commanders were within the law. It is their duty to prevent occurrences of this type. They have done so, and will continue doing so in the future. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Rabin: Sharon Plan Undermines Likud Position

TA2308113988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that with his new plan, Ari'el Sharon has undermined the Likud's political position which sanctions Greater Israel. Minister Rabin said that by proposing the annexation of parts of Judaea and Samaria in accordance with the Allon Plan, Sharon is in fact adopting the Labor Party's view which states that in Judaea and Samaria there are areas more important militarily than others.

The defense minister added that Ari'el Sharon also drew the right distinction in claiming that Israel should stay in sparsely populated Arab areas. Minister Rabin was speaking to our correspondent Hayim Hecht during a tour of the north.

Shamir, Peres Speak to Respective Party Groups

TA1908121588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that as far as we are concerned, the riots in the territories can last even 9 years. We will neither accept nor agree to a Palestinian state, Shamir said, adding that these are tricks by the terrorist organizations. Shamir was speaking at a club for social welfare affairs in Jerusalem, stating that King Husayn's latest moves almost totally eliminate the idea of territorial compromise. The only way left, therefore, is that of direct negotiations according to the Camp David Accords. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister noted that these accords do not bind us to territorial concessions, nor to stop settlement in Judaea and Samaria.

In a meeting with Likud activists in Jerusalem this morning, Shamir said that if the Likud wins the elections it will renew settlement and the Jewish hold on Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. According to Shamir, this settlement will not harm the interests of the Arab population; rather it will serve this population and promote its living conditions.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres says it is pointless to try to seek partners for peace negotiations if the country does not consolidate a clear policy on the matter. According to Peres, conflicts all over the world are being resolved, and the Middle East will shortly become the only unresolved conflict. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that at a meeting of the Labor Party's campaign committee in Jerusalem, Mr Peres said that the party's propagandists will go from one house to another and engage in personal propaganda in public places such as movie houses, coffeehouses, and shopping centers.

Herut, Liberals Differ Over Merger Conditions

TA2108135988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] There is a dispute between Herut and the Liberals over their parties' merger. The merger ceremony is scheduled to take place at the end of this week. Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the differences of opinion involve Ministers Moshe Qatzav and Yitzhaq Moda'i. While Qatzav wants the Likud Movement's founding charter to exclude operational clauses regarding the status of the Liberal leaders or their roles and place on the joint Knesset ticket, Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i demands that the matter appear in writing in a binding document.

Moledet Movement Opens Election Campaign

TA2308193288 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpts] The Moledet [homeland] Movement, headed by Reserve Major General Rehav'am Ze'evi, will run in the next elections. A convention of activists, marking the beginning of the election campaign, is now in progress in Tel Aviv. Moledet supports the transfer of Arabs to Arab countries as a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Ze'evi] There are two basic facts: One—we have an acute demographic problem; two—there is a need, from the point of view of defense, to retain the territories of Judaea and Samaria. Anyone who understands these two problems cannot help arriving at the one and only solution, namely that the two nations must be separated. The Jewish nation will remain in Eretz Yisra'el, and the Arabs will live in Arab countries. [end recording] [passage omitted]

'Secret' Likud Poll Shows 6-7 Seats for Kakh

TA2208111288 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by Ilan Kfir and Menahem Shezaf]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir supports an initiative being consolidated in the Likud to take legal action to disqualify the Kakh Movement. Arguing that Kakh is a racist movement, Likud leaders shortly plan to submit a formal request to the Central Elections Committee to prevent Rabbi Kahane from running in the elections.

A secret poll conducted last week for the Likud shows that were elections held today, Kakh would receive six to seven seats. Likud ministers were astounded by the findings, particularly about the support Kahane enjoys among young voters. HADASHOT has learned that consultations on the subject were held with the participation of Minister Moshe Qatzav, chairman of the Likud's election staff, Minister Moshe Arens, Finance Minister Moshe Nisim, Justice Minister Avraham Sharir, and Deputy Minister Roni Milo.

The findings of the poll give the right-wing bloc an advantage of four to five seats over the Alignment bloc. The Likud would receive 41 seats in the next Knesset, while Tehiya and Tzomet would get approximately 10 seats. The Alignment would receive 41 seats, while the Citizens Rights Movement would increase its strength and get more than 6 seats. Rehav'am Ze'evi's Moledet Movement, which promotes the transfer idea, would not muster the minimum quota, while Memad, the new religious movement, would probably make it to the Knesset.

Last night Minister Moshe Arens told HADASHOT he knew nothing about the poll or its findings. "In any event, the Knesset has passed a law to prevent Kakh from running in the elections, and I hope the Central Elections Committee will disqualify it," he added. Arens emphasized that whatever the case may be, Kakh would not be a partner in a Likud-led coalition. [passage omitted]

Hamas' Organization History, Trends Outlined

TA2308125288 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 88 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] PLO supporters in the territories have expressed great concern over the growing influence of Hamas, (the Islamic Resistance Movement) in the West Bank. Hamas is an Islamic fundamentalist organization. They fear that it will damage the consensus attained in the territories over the character of the intifada [uprising].

Hamas, identified with the Mujama', has been influential in the Gaza Strip for some time. Its influence in the West Bank, however, has not been significant. On 21 August, for the first time since the outbreak of the unrest in the territories, it managed to enforce a general commercial strike in the large cities of the West Bank even though the Unified National Command of the Uprising did not call for a strike on that day. Residents of Nabulus, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Bethlehem said that on that day Hamas activists forced shop owners to strike in spite of themselves.

Ideological arguments ensued in several places, while in other places the Muslim fanatics used force and threats to make merchants close down their businesses. The residents said that in many places the activists did not bother to hide their activity and carried it out in the open.

On 21 August slogans expressing support for the Islamic Resistance Movement, as well as calls to hold a commercial strike, were painted on walls. Last night the PLO supporters' response to those slogans appeared in several places. The responses demonstrated support for the Unified National Command of the Uprising and the PLO.

PLO supporters in the territories said that the increasing influence of this organization in the West Bank might jeopardize the "national unity" attained between the various factions of the PLO on the intifada. It might also torpedo the political achievements which PLO activists hope to score in the future as an outcome of the uprising.

PLO activists in the territories said that the split between the different PLO factions united under the Unified Command of the Uprising (which has been publishing the numbered leaflets over the past few months) and Hamas' Muslim fanatics occurred 4 months ago. At that time representatives of the Islamic Mujama' decided to quit the National Command because they did not want to cooperate with Marxist organizations.

Ever since then, those Islamic Mujama' supporters have been publishing their own leaflets in the territories under the name of Hamas. They have tried to challenge the Unified National Command several times by calling for various organized activities by residents of the territories to conflict with the instructions issued by the Unified National Command.

Hamas (an Arabic word which means "fanaticism" or "enthusiasm" and is an acronym for "Islamic Resistance Movement") has increased its influence in the West Bank during the last few months. It accomplished this through strenuous activity by various propaganda networks and a series of acts of terror and intimidation. Among other actions, Hamas activists have been disseminating cassettes that include blasphemous slogans against Jews and Judaism; condemnation of coexistence as the solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; and calls for repentance.

One of these cassettes begins with a slogan that has become extremely popular among the Muslim fanatics: "Khaybar, Khaybar for the Jews, Muhammad's Army

will return." (Khaybar is the place in Saudi Arabia where Muhammad conducted his most important battle against the Jewish community during his 7th century conquests).

Some 2 months ago, Hamas activists antagonized many of Nabulus' residents by burning down a liquor store owned by a member of the tiny local Christian community. Residents of the city report that several members of the popular committees launched a fund-raising campaign to help this merchant.

PLO activists in the West Bank believe that the Israeli defense establishment is ignoring the intensive activity of the Muslim fanatics as a part of its "divide and rule" policy.

Salah Khalaf Statement Said 'Far Reaching'

TA2408095388 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
24 Aug 88 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday said that Abu Iyad's [Salah Khalaf's] remarks that the PLO would be satisfied with less than the whole of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip are very far-reaching.

The political sources noted that a consensus seems to be emerging in the PLO on UN Security Council Resolution 181, the partition resolution. The PLO might back three different positions: Resolution 181 without mentioning border lines, a government in exile, or a Palestinian state.

Poll Shows Unrest's Affect on Public Opinion

TA2408131288 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
24 Aug 88 p A9

[Text] The Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute, directed by Dr Rahel Yisre'eli, conducted a public opinion poll during the last week of July. In the poll the interviewees were asked, among other things, about changes in their political views following the unrest in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The question presented was: Have the last few months' events in the territories influenced your position on defense and foreign relation issues? If they did, how?

The breakdown of the answers according to the political bloc voted for by the interviewees in the 1984 elections is as follows: Half of the respondents said that they have not changed their opinions following the unrest in the territories. Among those whose opinions have changed as a result of the uprising, the number of those who have turned more hawkish significantly exceeds that of those who turned more dovish.

An analysis of the responses shows that the unrest has influenced different parts of the Israeli public in different ways: Those who previously voted for leftwing parties tend to become more dovish. Those who previously voted for rightwing and religious parties turned more hawkish.

An analysis of the answers of those too young to vote in 1984 shows that 27 percent of them claimed that they are now more leftist than before, while 73 percent claimed to become more rightwing oriented.

The poll was conducted in individual interviews over a nationwide sample of 1,278 interviewees representing the adult Jewish population in Israel, with the exclusion of residents of the kibbutzim and the territories.

My position shifted to the:	right	left	no	total
1984 voters for the left	15	23	62	100
1984 voters for the right	46	9	45	100
1984 voters for religious	37	2	61	100
total in poll (including those who did not vote in 1984)	33	14	53	100

(figures given in percentage)

Cables Mark Anniversary of Ties With USSR

JN2008093888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Saturday marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

On the eve of the occasion, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri and his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze sent cables of greetings underlining the importance of maintaining strong ties between the two countries based on "mutual respect and genuine and fruitful cooperation for the benefit of people in both countries."

Al-Masri said despite the relationship's short duration, it has developed over the years in the political, economic and cultural fields.

He also said he was confident that in the coming years further "strides of coordination and cooperation" would be made in all domains. Al-Masri stated Moscow's continued support for Arab causes at all international forums, especially in the Arab countries' endeavour to regain their usurped rights in Palestine.

Al-Masri also praised the USSR's new openness (glasnost) policies, which Al-Masri said are bound to open new avenues in international relations.

Shevardnadze said his country values its relations with Jordan, which are based on mutual respect, cooperation and friendship.

He said dealings between Jordan and the USSR in various fields continue to progress for the benefit of Arab and Soviet people in addition to world peace.

Celebration Marks Anniversary

JN2208091888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] Amman—A celebration on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union was held at the Royal Cultural Center this evening. Speaking at the celebration were Senator Bahjat al-Talhuni, chairman of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society; Senator 'Akif al-Fayiz, deputy chairman of the society; Dr Hani al-Khasawinah, minister of information; and Sergey Kerpichenko, the Soviet charge d'affaires in Amman.

In his address, Al-Talhuni reviewed the development of the Jordanian-Soviet relations since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1963. He said these relations have achieved a great development thanks to His Majesty King Husayn's successive visits to the Soviet Union. In his speech, he praised the Soviet Union's stands supporting the just Arab causes, especially the Palestinian cause.

Afterward, Senator 'Akif al-Fayiz, deputy chairman of the society, delivered a speech in which he reviewed the development of the relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union in the interest of the two friendly countries—relations which have stemmed from the ancient cultural history of both countries. He said His Majesty King Husayn's successive visits to the Soviet Union and his continuous meetings with the Soviet leaders had a major role in giving successive boosts to the promotion of relations between the two friendly countries.

Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah delivered a speech in which he touched on the principles adopted by the Soviet Union represented by the call for the establishment of relations of friendship with all countries based on equality, non-interference in domestic affairs, respect for sovereignty, and seeking peace irrespective of the social and political systems adopted by those various countries.

Dr al-Khasawinah said that during his fulfillment of his mission in Moscow he felt that these principles have been soundly implemented in Jordan's relations with the Soviet Union. The minister recalled more than one visit paid by His Majesty King Husayn to the Soviet Union. He also recalled His Highness Crown Prince Hasan's visit to the Soviet Union and what has been achieved in those visits in terms of establishing human relations of friendship between the leaders of the two countries and the subsequent relations on political, economic, and cultural levels.

Sergey Kerpichenko, the Soviet charge d'affaires in Amman, delivered a speech in which expressed pride in the march of bilateral relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union among whose results was a joint understanding toward the most important world issues, headed by the issues of war and peace, the Palestine question, and the Arab-Israeli dispute in general. He said that His Majesty King Husayn's visits and his recent meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev last December have gone boynd the formulation of statements in our relations to enter the stage of practical interaction of joint efforts in order to convene an international Middle East peace conference and to hold consultations on the Afghan issue and the Iraq-Iran war.

He noted the constant Soviet stand on the Arab world issues, reprsented by finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute and establishing the Palestinian Arab people's national legitimate rights.

The celebration was attended by the members of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society and a number of invitees.

Agreement Signed on Al-Wahdah Dam Tunnel

JN2108171388 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 Aug 88

[Text] A treaty was signed at the Ministry of Water and Irrigation in Amman today to erect a diversion tunnel at

the site of Al-Wahdah Dam. The agreement was signed between the Jordanian Government on one hand and a joint Jordanian-Syrian-Italian company on the other.

According to the new treaty, work will start on the erection of the tunnel on 1 September this year with completion of the project expected by 1 September next year.

Consortium Wins Contract

JN2208084188 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Aug 88 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A consortium of Jordanian, Syrian and Italian companies has won a contract from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to build an 800-metre long tunnel at the site of the Al-Wahdah Dam near the Jordanian- Syrian border, according to an official statement Sunday that said work on the tunnel project would start early next month.

The companies are: Impregilo of Italy, Mount Qasyun of Syria and Consolidated Contractors of Jordan. Venture sources said that the cost of the diversion tunnel would be around JD 2.5 million.

Under the agreement, which was signed by Minister of Water and Irrigation Ahmad Dakhqan and representatives of the three companies, construction work on the tunnel will take 12 months to complete paving the way for work on the dam itself to begin by September 1989.

Following the signing ceremony, the minister said that the projected tunnel would be 7.7 metres in diameter to help drain away flood waters from Al-Yarmuk River on which the dam would be built. Following the construction of the dam, the tunnel would be blocked since water will be diverted to the dam itself to form a reservior, the minister said.

Between now and September 1989 concerned authorities and engineers involved in the dam project would be busy preparing designs and final tender documents for the main dam project, Dakhqan noted. The proposed designs will allow the height of the dam to be raised up to 140 metres in order to increase its water storage capacity, he added.

The minister said that a power station and diversion dam would be built near the Al-'Adasiyah area to control the flow of the Al-Yarmuk River water and direct it towards the King 'Abdallah Canal.

When built, the dam would form a reservoir at least six and a half square kilometres in area making the total storage capacity of the lake 225 million cubic metres gathered mostly from floods, springs and rain water in the Al-Yarmuk basin.

Al-Yarmuk River flows from Syria along the border with Jordan and the Israeli-held Golan Heights, and runs briefly between Jordan and the occupied Palestinian territories before bending southwest to join the River Jordan.

According to Dakhqan, water from the dam would be utilised to irrigate farm lands estimated at 35,000 dunums mostly in the Jordan Valley region and would provide an estimated 50 million cubic metres of drinking water for Amman and Zarqa.

In addition, the minister said that the lake water would be used to irrigate an estimated 5,000 dunums of high lands.

The minister estimated the whole project to cost JD 130 million and to be ready by 1993.

While Jordan would be using the stored winter flood water mainly for irrigation and drinking, Syria would get some water and 75 per cent of any hydroelectric power produced by the power station near the dam.

The contract signing Sunday followed talks here by a joint Jordanian-Syrian committee entrusted with studying and supervising steps to implement the project.

The prime ministers of Jordan and Syria last September signed the agreement on the construction of the dam, which will be implemented by Jordan and financed through loans from a number of Arab and international sources.

King Receives Brunei Religious Affairs Minister

JN1908163488 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Aug 88

[Text] His majesty the king received at Al-Nadwah Palace this afternoon Bruneian Minister of Religious Affairs Haji Mohamed Zain Pehin Datuk, and his accompanying delegation. The minister conveyed to his majesty the king greetings of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah. During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

The audience was attended by the chief of the Royal Court and the minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs.

Cabinet Endorses Qatanani Appointment

JN2108130088 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Cabinet Saturday endorsed the appointment of Dr. Ahmad Qatanani to the post of director general at the Department of Palestinian Affairs which is affiliated with the Foreign Ministry. The department was created after the Ministry of Occupied Territories was abolished earlier this month. Qatanani served as secretary-general of the ministry before the new appointment.

The Cabinet also endorsed Saturday amendments to Shari'a Judges' Law, the certificate equivalence law and the administrative law for the Health Ministry.

Industry Minister Confers With USSR Delegation

JN2008165188 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] Amman, 20 Aug (PETRA)—Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' and a USSR delegation led by Vladimir Mordvinov, deputy minister of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, today discussed economic relations between the two countries in the scientific, technical, and economic fields as well as ways to enhance and promote them. The ministry's secretary general also met with the USSR official and the accompanying delegation.

The USSR delegation arrived in Amman today to sign a Jordanian-USSR agreement in order to set up a joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation worth $80 million equally divided between the two sides.

Industry Minister Describes Economic Measures

JN2008123288 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Aug 88 pp 16, 17

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' by AL-DUSTUR editorial staff in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-DUSTUR: After decisions amending the regulations governing imports and customs were issued and after the promulgation of the measures providing for encouraging investment in Jordan, Jordanian citizens have begun to bring up numerous questions on the dimensions and implications of these measures. What do you expect these implications to be in both the near and distant future?

Al-Tabba': Since its inception, Jordan has advocated the principle of individual initiative as well as the system of economic freedom. The materialization of this economic development is to be attributed to Jordan's advocating this policy. The government has always believed that the private sector has a big role to play in economic development.

Besides, issuing the latest measures is tantamount to a return to our normal economic life. The decisions made by the government approximately 3 years ago were made to tackle a specific temporary situation created by the difficulties some industries faced. These circumstances have changed right now. These measures were not a policy. No, they were decisions made to tackle the difficulties faced by some industries during that period. Therefore, the government adopted protectionist measures. His majesty the king, the leader and architect of this homeland, taught us that man is the dearest asset that we have. Therefore, we have to take the consumer and his interests into account.

I believe that the latest measures guarantee the consumer the chance to choose between numerous national and foreign products; this is what we call honorable competition. The latest decisions have not come out of a vacuum. No, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Council of Ministers spent a lot of time discussing them.

When we examine these decisions carefully, we find that home industries were our prime concern. Now, we provide these industries with protection and exempt the productive and commodity machines and equipment used by these industries of all customs dues and fees, which people say used to increase production costs. These machines and equipment are currently fully exempted from paying the treasury any customs or fees whatsoever.

Furthermore, we amended the regulations governing the customs fees to be paid when some products and commodities are imported, in order to protect and support industries. If these decisions were viewed, we would find that the home industries have taken the lion's share from these measures; this is our objective.

Nobody has the right to claim he was harmed by the latest measures, as no industries were basically introduced on the basis of the government's provision of protectionist measures during the period of protectionism. All protected industries were operating in an open market before the introduction of protectionist measures. Besides, all industrialists have always known that the protectionist measures were temporary. [Passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR: After issuing the latest measures, the ministry's Specifications and Standardization Department might be unable to meet the expected increase in the volume of industrial investment. Is there an intention to develop this department?

Al-Tabba': This department will be developed. A new law governing this department has been forwarded to the Council of Ministers for approval. This department will be directly linked to the minister. Besides, it will be granted full independence. It will include public and official figures so that it can play its monitoring role to the fullest extent possible. Now, its burdens are great. We will find efficient people to run it. We will also employ very stringent measures to monitor imported commodities. We will not allow the import of commodities that do not meet Jordanian specifications and standards. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR: Why is Jordan always the only party that unilaterally implements bilateral agreements, while the other parties fail to implement these agreements, especially those pertaining to bilateral trade exchange?

Al-Tabba': One should not complain about the injustice caused when dealing with brothers. Besides, the bilateral agreements reached cannot serve as a substitute for the common Arab market. The Arab markets are open for Arab commodities and products. For example, the Saudi market is open for those who wish to export commodities and products from Jordan. Likewise, the Jordanian market is open for Saudi goods and commodities. The same thing applies to our dealings with Tunisia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Morocco.

As for Egypt and Syria, we signed protocols with them and approved lists of commodities to be exchanged despite the fact that we believe in freeing economies and leaving markets open. However, we understand the circumstances of fraternal Egypt and fraternal Syria—the circumstances which govern their imports. They prefer to sign protocols that specify their imports. We recently signed a trade agreement with Egypt that increases the volume of bilateral trade.

AL-DUSTUR: The government always flatters the private sector. The latest measures represent a renewal of this flattery. However, the private sector has not provided the required response. What is the minister's opinion in this regard, in view of his experience in both sectors?

Al-Tabba': The private sector was frustrated during a certain period. It felt that the government engulfed it. We sensed this. We acknowledge that the government succeeded in some big projects. The private sector cannot compete with the government, which might sometimes overlook the economic feasibility of some projects due to political or social considerations.

We would like to see the private sector regain its confidence. However, some factors such as economic recession, Lebanon's crisis, the Gulf war, and Jordan's responsibility toward the occupied territories as well as its uprising have been obstructing the private sector's role. But now, with the termination of the Iraq-Iran war and the election of a new Lebanese president [as published], the private sector will once again have the chance to play its role. Previous discussions were held on privatization; namely, turning the public sector's institutions into private share-holding companies. Some institutions have conducted feasibility studies on this issue. Through the adoption of these measures, the government is honoring the pledges it has made. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR: What is the effect of the disengagement of ties between the two banks on the industrial goods and commodities coming from occupied Palestine—the commodities which depend on the Jordanian market and also head for Arab markets?

Al-Tabba': The bridges are open, and some products and industrial goods such as vegetables, fruits, Nabulus soap, and vegetable oil will continue to arrive in Jordan. The Ministry of Industry and Trade has so far continued to receive the West Bank's products quota in full. [passage omitted]

TIMES on Foreign Exchange Regulations

JN2408063288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Aug 88 p 6

[By Salamah B. Ni'mat, JORDAN TIMES Economic Correspondent]

[Text] Amman—The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Tuesday appeared determined to enforce foreign exchange regulations issued in June while moneychangers appealed for a freeze on these measures and warned that such restrictions could create a black market.

The regulations, issued by the Economic Security Committee, banned exchange houses from opening foreign accounts and limited their work to trading in banknotes. Moneychangers say that these measures, if implemented, could, on the average, reduce the volume of their operations by 75 to 85 per cent.

"This is a disaster," one moneychanger told the JORDAN TIMES. "We may as well close down and go home." He argued that now that the exchange market is stable, these measures have become unnecessary.

The committee's decision to tighten foreign exchange regulations on banks, financial institutions and exchange houses, came in the wake of shortages in Central Bank foreign currency reserves and reports of capital flight after two flurries in the domestic exchange market May 2 and June 2 that put pressure on the Jordan dinar.

The CBJ Monday gave exchange houses two weeks to close down their accounts abroad and to refrain from dealing with money transfers. The June 22 regulations were originally supposed to be enforced within one month, but until Monday, the CBJ appeared to be reconsidering the instructions after stability was restored to the local exchange market.

The ultimatum issued at a meeting chaired by CBJ Governor Husayn al-Qasim and attended by CBJ deputy Governor Mahir Shukri, confirmed that the government was determined to enforce the new foreign exchange instructions.

Moneychangers earlier appealed to the prime minister to reconsider the new measures which they said harshly affected nearly 200 exchange houses.

Press reports said moneychangers were taking part in speculation on foreign currencies, particularly the Iraqi dinar, in the wake of the Gulf war ceasefire and the Lebanese pound on the eve of presidential elections believed to eventually boost the national economy and the Lebanese lira.

Economists argue that such speculation put pressure on the Jordanian dinar but moneychangers assert that trading in these currencies remained negligible.

Economic columnist Fahd al-Fanik contended that while banks were complying with CBJ regulations limiting capital flight, moneychangers were left to take over such "smuggling" of the Kingdom's private reserves of foreign currency.

The CBJ's rules limited money transfers to other countries to "legitimate" purposes, putting a ceiling of JD 5,000 a year for each individual.

The Other Side

Moneychangers claimed that regulations imposed on the local exchange market harmed the national economy and inhibited the inflow of money into the Kingdom. They said that following recent measures, remittances from Jordanian expatriates declined while capital flight increased.

"People feel simply uneasy with regulations," Ghazi al-Sa'udi commented. He said the new regulations "represented a 180-degree shift from the policy of openness."

It is very strange that at a time when the government lifts protectionism and liberalises the market, the Central Bank goes in the opposite direction," Al-Sa'udi told the JORDAN TIMES. "It is as if the Central Bank is going east while the government goes west."

Speaking on behalf of a group representing moneychangers, he said that "such a sensitive decision" should not be taken lightly. He warned that the moment the CBJ measures were implemented in exchange houses, "they will be creating a black market."

He argued that "no regulations could stop capital flight." He cited Syria and Iraq as examples, saying that "there are a million ways for people to smuggle their money outside. There is nothing that can be done about it. It will only make it more costly, but it will not stop it."

Al-Sa'udi said that the improving regional climate with an apparent end to the Gulf war "should make us reconsider restrictive measures. There is no actual need for these measures at a time when pressures are easing and things look promising on the eastern front."

He was referring to an expected boom in trade with Iraq in the wake of a Gulf peace which he argued would also make it easier for Baghdad to repay its JD 225 million debt to Jordan and boost the country's foreign currency reserves.

In a related development, Iraqi Ministry of Trade Undersecretary Dr. Qubays 'Abd al-Fattah was expected to arrive here Tuesday for talks with Jordanian officials on ways to finance Jordanian industrial exports to Iraq that exceeded the annual ceiling established by a bilateral trade agreement.

Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi al-Tabba' told the JORDAN TIMES last week that he was optimistic that a settlement would be reached with the Iraqi government on the export problem.

'Nationalist Parties' Seek Reconciliation

NC2308115088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The nationalist parties held a meeting at the Carlton Hotel at 1100 today. Minister Nabih Birri, Dr Muhammad Baydun, and the lawyer Haytham Jum'ah attended the meeting on behalf of the Amal Movement.

The PSP was represented by party leader Walid Junblatt, Akram Shuhayyib, and Antoine al-Ashqar, and the Communist Party by party Secretary General George Hawi, 'Ali al-'Abd, Ghassan Nasir, and Ilyas 'Atallah. 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas and 'Umar 'Umar attended on behalf of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon.

The Syrian Social Nationalist Party—the Higher Council was represented by party leader Dawud Baz and Tawfiq Muhanna, and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party—The Emergency by 'Isam al-Mahayiri and Nasri al-Khuli. Suhayl Hamadah attended on behalf of the Arab Democratic Party.

The Nasirite Unionists Movement was represented by Dr Samir Sabbagh; the Arab Socialist Union by 'Abd al-Rahim Murad and 'Umar Harb; the Arab Socialist Union—The Nasirite Organization by Munir al-Sayyad; the Workers League by Deputy Zahir al-Khatib and Nasir Qandul; the Islamic Grouping movement by Sa'd al-Din Hamadah Saqr, and the popular committees and leagues by Bisharah Mirhij and 'Abdan 'Aytani.

After the meeting, which ended at 1230, 'Abd al-Amir 'Abbas read a statement in which he emphasized the need to achieve reconciliation based on reforms that will ensure the abolition of political sectarianism and all forms of hegemony before the presidential election is held. The parties will take all political and practical measures to prevent the election from taking place before reconciliation is attained.

The statement warned President al-Jumayyil against forming a new government which would be bound to take a factional and partitionist turn. It said: In such an event, the parties will take political and practical measures to prevent the emergence of such a government.

The nationalist parties and forces also warned all Arab circles and states against supporting or supplying arms to the pro-Zionist forces.

The nationalist parties called for the mobilization of all the people's resources in connection with the U.S.-Israeli intervention. They also called for a strike on Friday, 26 August, to protest U.S.-Israeli interference.

Birri on Carlton Meeting, Elections, U.S.

JN2408093088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1755 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Interview with Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader, minister of justice and hydroelectric resources, and minister of state for the South and reconstruction, in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Naturally, we demanded reconciliation before Presidency. What is required is not changing people. Within 14 years, we changed the president of the Republic three times without any result. Matters got worse and worse. Now, they talk about a president of unanimity. Amin al-Jumayyil was a president of unanimity and look what has happened. They talk about a president without a smell, color, or the like or about a president of reconciliation rather than confrontation. Ilias Sarkis was not a president of confrontation. What happened? The Israeli tanks came at the end of Ilias Sarkis' days.

Therefore, we said: What is required now is to change the system. When the system changes, and this is what we call reconciliation between Lebanese—with the help and backing of fraternal Syria, which is, frankly, the only Arab and foreign state that put its full weight behind this issue, not only now, but from 1976, from the Rabat summit until now. We insisted on this.

When [former] President Franjiyah announced his candidacy, we thought this could pave the way for a reconciliation that could be achieved in his era. We said, let it be. President Franjiyah has a known position on the Arabism of Lebanon, open door policy with the Arab world, and so forth. This could form the threshold , or the first step, in the reconciliation course which we seek.

We were therefore surprised at the disruption of the election with American intervention. They are dealing in Lebanon as if the Lebanese Forces, or Ja'ja' and Karim Paqraduni, who are opposing the Syrian Arab line and who are against Lebanese nationalism, are the only ones. This is untrue. The battle is an American one against Lebanese nationalism.

It is clear that the Americans intervened with their full powers to disrupt these elections. Some were directed, through intimidation and temptation—also, do not forget that films were fabricated, as if people were saying: Kidnap us.

There were certain plans to disrupt the quorum. Quorum was therefore disrupted. It became clear that they do not want reconciliation before the election nor an election before the reconciliation. They want division. This pushed us to take today's step of inviting all Lebanese national parties, forces, and functionaries to the Carlton [Hotel], and this final stand, from which there shall be no retreat, was issued.

Through Syrian television, we urge our brothers in Syria, headed by brother struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, to support the Lebanese national forces, as he always has, in their new position, which states that there will be no Presidency in Lebanon without a reconciliation. Since they disrupted the election of President Franjiyah, the only candidate now is reconciliation among the Lebanese. This is the candidate if reconciliation is achieved now.

They cannot say that the parliament cannot convene now, and so forth. Nor can they show adherence to the Constitution when the nation is damaged. The Constitution is used to preserve the nation, but the nation is damaged. There is damage in the country now; there is a divided country. What is required now is not to keep Lebanon in its unity. What is required is to restore unity to Lebanon, because really it is divided.

Now, we are in urgent need for Syria's support in this new position, which mainly says that reconciliation has priority. When reconciliation is achieved and consecrated in a parliamentary document, then, and only then, a president of the Republic can be chosen to implement this reconciliation as long as they have rejected the candidate who could have opened the door for reconciliation, that is President Franjiyah.

Carlton Meeting Labeled 'Cheap Gimmick'

NC2308170388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpts] It seems that Damascus is not learning from its past experiences and miscalculations, the most recent of which is its failure to pass the test of 18 August. Less than 1 week after its candidate fell by the free choice of the people and the Chamber of Deputies, Syria was back again today, through its allies in Lebanon, trying to escalate the situation and raise the tone of its demands, as if the past were nothing from which to learn. This proves all the more that it has not given up its intentions to stymie the presidential elections. [passage omitted]

A gathering of Syria's allies assembled in the Carlton Hotel today with obvious Syrian prodding to produce a statement which, to put it mildly, was demagogic and smacked of weakness, desperation, and bankruptcy. [passage omitted]

Political and parliamentary circles have viewed the Carlton statement as a renewed Syrian effort to cope with the 18 August defeat and to regain a strong negotiating position before the return of U.S. envoy Richard Murphy next week. [passage omitted]

A Lebanese Forces source told the AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM news agency that what happened at the Carlton was a cheap gimmick and a mere Syrian attempt to obstruct the elections. We regard this move as a call for partition, he said, adding that it was also a sign of weakness.

The source said: The elections will take place despite everything, and Lebanon will get a president of reconciliation. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss in Damascus in Bid To End Election Crisis

NC2408081888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] To discuss the issue of the presidential election and resolve it in a manner that will strengthen the country's unity and help to end the crisis, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss arrived in Damascus this morning. His visit is in response to an official invitation from Syrian leaders to hold talks with high-ranking Syrian officials.

Deputy Albert Mansur also left for Damascus this morning in light of the results of the parliamentary meeting which was held in Mansur Palace [seat of the Chamber of Deputies] yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese Front, the Lebanese Forces, political leaders, and the regime in the eastern area have embarked on a round of consultations to agree on a presidential candidate who will represent them, noting that the announcement of the name of this candidate will come as a surprise.

Amal Arrests Israeli Intelligence Network

NC2308203588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] The Amal Movement branch in southern Lebanon has announced that its security apparatus has arrested a network of agents working for the Israeli intelligence service in the liberated areas. The network consists of five people from the Al-Rayhan area.

In a statement issued this evening, Amal said the network members confessed during interrogation that they have ties with the Israeli intelligence service and that they had carried out several missions for it in Beirut and the South. These missions included bombings, assassinations, and other acts.

Amal announced that it will publicize the full details of this network's activities at a news conference which it will hold at 1030 tomorrow.

Commentary Views Lebanese Elections 'Impasse'

JN2208144788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: A date has not yet been set for another session of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to elect a new president. Meanwhile, activities continue in Lebanon to find a way to break the impasse created by Lebanese parties known for their pressure and interference. These parties want to prevent the Lebanese deputies from holding a meeting, fulfilling their constitutional duty, and electing a new president. The aim of the meeting is to move Lebanon out from the abnormal situation it has reached following one and a quarter decades of internal crisis, bloody conflict, and political differences.

Some parties fear that the encroachments by a group seeking to impose its trusteeship on all the Lebanese people will plunge Lebanon into new difficulties and complications, resulting in a loss of security, peace, and favorable prospects. One of the most peculiar things about the sad situation created by this group—a group that controls the government in part of Lebanon and tries to dominate all the Lebanese people and impose a president of its own choosing—is the fact that it talks about agreement and accord among the Lebanese and about a reconciliation-promoting president.

Oddly enough, this particular group has resisted and continues to resist any genuine, sincere effort to achieve national accord among the Lebanese and attain a national solution securing Lebanon's territorial integrity and unity. Such a solution will also emphasize Lebanon's Arab affiliation and its commitment to liberating its soil from Israeli occupation.

Moreover, this group rejects the accord based on ending the internal crisis and conflict and laying down the foundations of the future Lebanon, a Lebanon that will ensure equality and justice for all Lebanese and close all the loopholes through which the enemy has entered to kindle the internal conflict.

Today, the enemies of national accord pretend to seek reconciliation on a Lebanese president. Had they been sincere in their call for reconciliation they would have respected the will of the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people and sought cooperation with other Lebanese groups. Moreover, they would have refrained from boasting that they had obstructed the elections and prevented the Lebanese deputies from having their say in the Chamber of Deputies rather than through the usurpers of government, the founders of cantons, or those who threaten to place Lebanon in a vacuum. In this way, they could offer possibilities that the Lebanese people would not accept and that would intimidate the Lebanese nationalists, who constitute the majority.

This group—which encroaches upon the majority and depends on threats, the usurpation of government, and both encouragement and inspiration from overseas and from other parties, including Israel—is not waging a battle against outside forces as it claims, but against the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people, the Lebanese Government, and the legal and constitutional means.

Furthermore, this group—which is a very small minority and had been previously defeated along with its allies by the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people—now enters the battle against the Lebanese people supported by outsiders, Israel, and those who want to involve Arabs in a war that is not their own and in a conflict that will distract them from their conflict with Zionism in Palestine. However, just as this group and its proposals have been defeated in the past by the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people, this group will not achieve a victory today.

Moreover, the new and old allies of this group will not champion it in the way the Israeli invaders brought their representative to power. Should this group achieve any victory, it will be at the expense of Lebanon's unity, security, peace, and future. This move is rejected by the Lebanese people, who care for Lebanon's unity, survival, continuity, and future.

TISHRIN Cited on Lebanese Elections

JN2008125688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 Aug 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Constitutional Deadline Is a National Option and Not a Bargaining Framework," the newspaper TISHRIN says in today's editorial: So that cards will not be confused and illusions may not come true in the process of constitutional deadline, all options that move away from national reconciliation or base calculations on bargaining in drawing up Lebanon's future and its political and geographic map will fail, just like the 17 May agreement.

This was not merely an agreement, but an outcome of the Israeli invasion, whose various aims converge with those of the Zionized current which wagered and continues to wager on playing the role of an Israeli wedge to undermine the trend toward attaining a national reconciliation that places Lebanon on the threshold of a new stage, based on preserving the unity of its territory and people within the framework of its Arab affiliation and role.

To clarify the future picture, it should be recalled that there was a time when many wagered on a solution coming from Israel and from (?plans) under implementation. However, subsequent facts proved, as President Hafiz al-Asad said, that Lebanon's problems cannot be solved outside Lebanon and Syria. This fact should always be borne in mind.

After reviewing this period, beginning with the first Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the enemy leaders' rejection of Security Council Resolution No 425, to the U.S. policy in the region—a policy which continued to adopt and support the Camp David schemes—and ending with the toppling of the 17 May agreement as a result of the Syrian support which turned the 1982 Israeli invasion into a political and military deadlock, TISHRIN concludes by saying:

In light of this, the presidential elections will take their normal course because the given facts, with their local and regional dimensions, diminish all options of wagering on the past, which will not reopen its door for a new disruption partly aimed at reviving the 17 May agreement or reaching partial solutions within the framework of the search for security arrangements, on which the Zionist enemy insists. This enemy is playing the card of its occupation of the south to achieve them or search for a U.S. (?plan) lost in the belligerency of fleets.

Syria is well aware of what is taking place and those wagering on outside solutions will not be able to change the national march, which has fixed aims. Syria has worked with the Lebanese brothers to entrench and protect this march, which has now become stronger.

Paper Views U.S. Policy on Middle East, Israel

JN2208150088 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Damascus, 22 Aug (SANA)—The United States cares neither for a radical, balanced solution to the Lebanese question nor for Lebanon's interests—nor for that matter for a fair solution to the Mideast problem, TISHRIN says. Hence its insistence on fighting Palestinian self-determination and its support for Zionist security theories in the region, the paper adds.

In today's editorial, TISHRIN says Washington's perception of the Lebanese question focuses only on security solutions to advance American-Israeli policy and fits in with the Zionist scheme, thus giving expression to Washington's strategic alliance with the Zionist entity and blind hatred of Syria. What Syria wants for Lebanon is a balanced solution taking into account the interests of all parties along with the unity of the country's people and territory and placing it in its natural Arab framework. The same is true of the Palestinian cause.

TISHRIN says in conclusion: It is according to this American conception that regional deals are being made. Washington's supporters in the Lebanese and Palestinian arenas are being mustered and rallied against Syria, the liberation of the occupied land, and Palestinian self-determination.

Briefs

Departing GDR Ambassador

Vice President Dr Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah today received GDR Ambassdor Wolfgang Grabowski on the end of his assignment as his country's ambassador in Damascus. [Text] [*JN2308171488 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 23 Aug 88*]

Afghanistan

Islamabad Details Mujahidin Attacks

BK2208153488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin carried out a sudden attack on the Qandahar garrison in Afghanistan and inflicted heavy casualties on Kabul regime troops. The reports say the mujahidin also attacked the Jablus Siraj garrison in Parvan Province, and killed 38 Kabul regime troops and destroyed four military vehicles and two heavy machineguns.

Khvajeh Ghar Said Captured

BK2408062888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have attacked the Gardeyz airport and the Governor's House with rockets and surface-to-surface missiles, causing heavy damage to the airport building, destroying a helicopter, and killing eight Kabul regime soldiers. The mujahidin also attacked the Zarmal security post and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Another report says the mujahidin have captured the Khvajeh Ghar subdivision of Takhar Province. In this operation, the mujahidin captured 180 Kabul soldiers and a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

IRNA Report on Mujahidin Successes

LD2308170888 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 23, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin liberated Arghandab strategic region, 10 kms. from Qandahar provincial capital, during their operations last Saturday.

Liberation of Arghandab overlooking the city of Qandahar will make it easier for the mujahidin to take over Qandahar. Mujahidin also shot down a government helicopter and destroyed five tanks, killing or wounding a large group of the communist troops.

The mujahidin also downed a Kabul regime's warplane near the capital on August 17, also killing and wounding scores of communist troops and inflicting heavy losses on them during their operations in three Afghan provinces.

On August 16 the mujahidin shot down a government helicopter in Kajakiva region of Qandahar Province, killing 10 government forces including three crewmen of the chopper.

In another development the mujahidin destroyed parts of the Qandahar's central jail during a coordinated operation on 15 August, setting free 23 Muslim prisoners. On the same day mujahidin rocketed a communist troop concentration site in Baba Saheb area of Qandahar Province killing more than 60 government soldiers.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin captured Khvajeh Ghar region, 12 kms. from the Soviet border in Takhar Province on 14 August, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy and taking 180 government troops prisoner.

Related reports from inside Afghanistan said 11 communist troops were killed and a considerable amount of military equipment were seized by the mujahidin when they stormed security outposts of the Kabul regime in Herat Province on 13 August.

BAKHTAR Says 'Extremists' Crushed, Arms Seized

LD2308130088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] August 22, BAKHTAR—Four extremist groups were crushed recently by the armed forces of the country in Konarha, Paktia, Nangarhar and Qandahar Provinces, report our military correspondents from the said provinces.

A six-person armed opposition group which was disturbing the peaceful life of residents in Shin Kowrak areas of Konarha Province, bordering Pakistan was crushed on Saturday. Arms of ten extremists were destroyed and their several hideouts damaged as a result of the operations carried out by the armed forces.

According to another report from Qandahar Province, forty persons attached to the extremists bands were toppled. Their arms and munitions depot was destroyed on Saturday as well.

A number of extremists who were disturbing the peaceful life of Sayyed Karam district and Gardeyz city citizens by launching surface to surface rockets on residential areas were crushed on Saturday by the security forces.

Likewise an armed opposition group was demolished recently in Japerhar sub-district of Nangarhar Province.

A unit of surface-to surface rocket launchers and a number of weapons which belonged to extremists were destroyed as well.

Kabul Notes Strikes

LD2308222888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] According to a report by BAKHTAR's military section, arms and ammunition belonging to the extremists which were stored in Samangar village in Laghman Province have been destroyed by the security forces with

the direct cooperation of the local people. The report adds that 10 men who were carrying the arms and ammunition were also crushed during the security forces' operation.

A gang belonging to the Gulbuddin group, which was involved in terrorism and the disruption of the peaceful life of people in Badakhshan Province, was crushed recently by the security forces.

According to another report by BAKHTAR's military section, the head of the group, Nazirollah, was crushed and six others were seriously wounded during the security forces' operation and arms and ammunition belonging to the extremists was destroyed.

As a result of strikes by the armed forces inflicted on rebels in the Tera pass and Zarinomra in Paktia Province, four extremists were crushed and six others were seriously injured. According to BAKHTAR their two guns were also destroyed during this operation.

'Extremists' Kill Two in Attack on Gardeyz
LD2308183488 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that a rocket attack by the subversive extremists on the residential area of Gardeyz City and its surroundings martyred a 5-year-old child and a woman. In addition, the criminal act partially damaged 15 homes.

Afghan Envoy Holds News Conference in Prague
AU1908145488 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 18 Aug 88 p 7

[Dalibor Macha report: "Islamabad's Meddling Is the Main Obstacle; Afghan Ambassador to the CSSR Gives News Conference"]

[Text] Prague—We have grown tired of the undeclared 10-year war against Afghanistan. Nevertheless, our armed forces will be capable of successfully defending the revolution even after the departure of the Soviet troops—provided Pakistan does not meddle in our affairs. This was stressed by 'Abdul Baqi Samandari, Afghan ambassador to Czechoslovakia, at a Prague news conference on Wednesday [13 August].

According to the ambassador, after the policy of national reconciliation was embarked upon and the departure of Soviet troops was announced, the Afghan Army (which has modern weaponry and good morale) enhanced its combat ability. The experience won in joint actions with the Soviet soldiers is of great significance for it. The ambassador stated that 60 percent of the Afghan armed forces consisted of members of the PDPA.

The Geneva agreements on settling the Afghanistan situation have established suitable conditions for normalizing relations with Pakistan. However, Islamabad is renouncing its commitments; its response to Afghan notes is silence or coarse statements. It claims that the agreements apply solely to the withdrawal of Soviet troops from our country, but this very statement is a violation of the document in question, specifically of Article 3, Paragraph 13, the ambassador stressed. The Pakistani interference has not ceased, and anti-Afghan groups continue operating from their centers on Pakistani territory. Pakistan is training anti-Afghan bandits, even shifting some of their camps to its own weapons training centers. It is letting Afghan refugee camps be encircled, thus preventing the refugees from being repatriated. Moreover, the Pakistanis are not assisting the groups of UN observers supervising the fulfillment of the Geneva accords, 'Abdul Baqi Samandari stated.

On the other hand, an amnesty decree has already been issued in Afghanistan, the people who are returning home are given back their property, land is being distributed, and peace zones established in the border areas. Even certain representatives of the opposition have already become provincial or domain [ujezd] governors. Moreover, seats have also been reserved for the opposition parties in the new parliament. After the conclusion of the Geneva accords, a new political system began to operate on the basis of pluralist principles and the foundations of the coalition government are being expanded. At the news conference the ambassador stated that the Afghan prime minister has no party affiliation and that only 15 ministers of his 31-man cabinet are party members. Were it not for the continuing senseless war, which is preventing the country from making use of its manpower resources and its material riches, the living standards of the Afghan population would be much higher, the ambassador stated. For instance, during the last 10 years (since the revolution in April 1978) 2,000 schools and 75 percent of all communications have been destroyed by war, and more than 365 hospitals and health centers have been burned down.

As for the state of negotiations with the opposition, the ambassador said that only four extremist parties belonging to the so-called alliance of seven are still fighting against Afghan rule; the remaining three parties are already seeking a dialogue with the Kabul government. Asked about his views on USSR General Kim Tsagolov's recent statement that the end of war in Afghanistan is still not in sight and on his pessimistic forecasts about "who will prove the strongest," the ambassador remarked that Tsagolov's stay in Afghanistan has been brief and that in any case, his statements express the general's purely private opinion. He then reiterated the standpoint that the Afghan Armed Forces are capable of successfully defending the country. Briefly said, a comprehensive solution of the Afghan issue lies in halting Pakistani interference, Ambassador 'Abdul Baqi Samandari concluded.

Tanay Conveys Najibullah Mesage to Soldiers

LD2208231088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] A message from Esteemed Najibullah, the president and supreme commander of the Afghan Armed Forces, was delivered to the units and companies that participated in the recent combat operation in Konduz. It was brought by Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, the defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that at this gathering, the defense minister spoke about the recent sucess of the Armed Forces personnel in the mopping-up operations in areas around Konduz Province. He congratulated them and pointed out the duties of the commanders and political workers in ensuring peace and security in the country and enhancing the combat-readiness of the units and companies. He also pointed out the responsibilities of the commanders and political workers to crush the warmongering and plundering elements.

The defense minister also presented medals and decorations of the Republic of Afghanistan to the personnel of those units and companies that participated in the operation who showed merit in fulfilling their duties. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that a number of soldiers and officers pledged their readiness to sacrifice anything for the sake of ensuring peace and security in the country.

Foreign Minister Attends Meeting in Norway

LD2408084888 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug 23, BAKHTAR—The minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, 'Abdul Wakil participated in the inaugurating session of the international conference on refugees, repatriates and displaced peoples started in Oslo, capital of Norway on Monday.

The conference in which a number of world heads of states, the UN secretary general and the secretary general of the Organisation of African Unity have taken part was opened by the Norwegian prime minister.

According to another report 'Abdul Wakil during a meeting with the minister of foreign affairs of Norway discussed matters relating to the expansion of mutual relations between the two countries. [Words indistinct] of the realisation of the Geneva (?agreements) was dismissed during their talks as well.

The minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan participated at a dinner given by the Norwegian Government in honour of the participating delegations in the conference on Monday evening.

News Conference on Joint Soviet Space Flight

LD2208105788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 21, BAKHTAR—In connection with the imminent Afghan-Soviet joint space flight a press conference was held in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan here today.

During the conference the minister of communications and chairman of the commission of joint Afghan-Soviet space flight Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, as well as members of the commission responded to the questions raised by local and foreign journalists.

The Afghan-Soviet joint space flight is included among tens of space flights carried out under the Soviet Union's world program of cooperation for the purposes of space and scientific researches, Watanjar said.

Preparations for this flight started in the July of 1987 during the meeting of the President of Afghanistan Najibullah and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU CC) Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow. It was during this visit that decisions about this flight were taken. Later a state commission for the organisation of the joint flight was created and the Soviet Union and Afghanistan signed protocol to this effect, Watanjar stressed.

The Afghan and Soviet physicians after checking and examining hundreds of pilots working in the air forces of Afghanistan chose Colonel Muhammad Dawran and Captain 'Abdul Ahad for this historic flight. Dawran and Ahad went under six month theoretical and practical trainings and have now become ready for the flight, Watanjar went on.

Afghanistan after the Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic is the third Islamic country in the world whose cosmonauts fly to the outer space, the minister said. Results of the flight are of vital importance from the national economic points. Information obtained during the flight would enable us to better exploit under ground resources in the country. It also would provide ample news on natural and physical structure of Afghanistan, Watanjar went on.

In order to better and effectively utilise the gains of the flight, a new department, that is, centre for scientific, productive and space researches is established in the frame of the general administration of geodesy and cartography of the Republic of Afghanistan, Watanjar noted.

The results of the Shamshad joint space flight provide possibilities for the scientific researches and study of natural resources in the country which are important for the growth of different branches of the Afghan economy, says Doctor Bahawal Darwish, general president of the

Geodesy and Cartography of the Republic of Afghanistan responding to the questions raised by journalists. The space photography areas in Afghanistan will be the city of Meymaneh, Qaravol, Konduz Province, Wazah Khwah of Paktia, Asadabad in Konarha Province, at a 400 km width and the scale of the photography will be ⅓,500,000 [figure as received]. The areas which will be covered for scientific researches and spotting of national resources in the country are Sheberghan, Mangah Jek Desert in Jowzjan Province, Pol-e Khomri and the Aynak area in Lowgar Province, he noted.

India

Restrictions Imposed in Srinagar After Violence

BK2408074788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, restrictions have been imposed on the movement of people and vehicles in some parts of Srinagar city as part of elaborate arrangements to ensure peaceful observance of Muharram [Muslim festival] today. Adequate police forces have been deployed as a precautionary measure. Police dispersed some miscreants indulging in violence in some parts of the city, using tear gas and firing warning shots in the air. The situation is stated to be under control.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Arrives in New Delhi

BK2008085688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Aug 88

[Text] The Nicaraguan external affairs minister, Mr Miguel d'Escoto, arrived in New Delhi today on a 4-day visit to India. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.K. Tiwari, received him at the airport.

Mr d'Escoto will call on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi. He will also have talks with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, on Monday.

Meets With Narasimha Rao

BK2308050288 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 88

[Text] The visiting Nicaraguan foreign minister, Miguel d'Escoto, today met the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, in New Delhi. The two leaders are understood to have exchanged views on issues concerning the Nonaligned Movement and bilateral matters.

Holds Talks With Gandhi

BK2408051188 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 23 August 88

[Text] The visiting Nicaraguan foreign minister, Mr Miguel d'Escoto, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi today. Mr d'Escoto is understood have discussed matters of bilateral interest and other international issues.

Earlier, addressing a press conference, the Nicaraguan foreign minister said his country is willing to host the next summit of the nonaligned countries if given the responsibility.

Referring to his talks with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, he said the question of Nicaragua hosting the next NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit also came up. Mr d'Escoto said India will soon be supplying his country transmission lines and the (?parts) for a thermal power project for harnessing energy from (?volcanoes).

Answering a question on the expulsion of the Nicaraguan ambassador from Washington, he said it has been referred to the Inter-American Legal Committee. Nicaragua would not be sending an envoy to Washington soon, he added.

Editorial on Generals' Role After Ziaul Haq

BK2308093088 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 19 Aug 88 p 8

[Editorial: "After Ziaul Haq"]

[Text] Pakistan faces an indefinite period of political uncertainty following the death of Gen. Ziaul Haq in a plane crash on Wednesday. After all, he ruled Pakistan with an iron hand for no less than 11 years. No other military ruler of Pakistan has had such a prolonged grip on power. Besides, he was not just ruthless—all dictators, military or otherwise, are. He also had a clear enough perspective, which demanded integration of the Islamic ideal with the State and a strong will to take Pakistan in that direction.

This made Gen. Ziaul Haq a soldier-politician of a rare breed. When such a man passes from the scene, it is only natural that there should be a big question mark before the country he sought to shape in accordance with his own ideas of Islamisation.

The prompt assumption of the reins of government by Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, the Chairman of the Pakistan Senate, is by no means a guarantee of political stability. He, in accordance with the Pakistani order of precedence, was legitimately number two in Islamabad. What is more pertinent is the fact that he was one of the closest confidants of Gen. Ziaul Haq. Soon after Gen. Ziaul Haq seized power in a coup and ousted Z.A. Bhutto in 1977, he appointed Mr Khan as the Secretary-General of the Defence Ministry.

Mr Khan was always of signal help to him in keeping the military establishment under strict surveillance. But these credentials will not necessarily make him immune to challenges from within the armed forces now. He is, after all, not a professional soldier which means that ambitious generals cannot regard his take-over as anything but a stop-gap arrangement.

Mr Khan has, of course, declared that there will be no change in the election schedule according to which Pakistan is to go to polls on November 19. It is customary for interim rulers to give such assurances. And these are normally honoured in a set-up sanctified by accepted norms of constitutional rule. In Pakistan's case, the course of events cannot be so smooth. The fact is that the Pakistan army has ruled the roost for too long to now develop a sudden respect for democratic values just because Gen. Ziaul Haq had fixed a date for elections. So what Mr Khan says is hardly of any consequence. It will be more realistic to expect a growing divergence within the military establishment on two alternative courses of action.

One is to see if the existing hybrid system in which the soldiers call the tune but civilian politicians serve the ornamental purpose should be continued. The other is to restore full-fledged military rule as it existed before 1985 when Gen. Ziaul Haq amended the constitution to give a civilian veneer to his regime. The fact that the announcement of elections has aroused the expectations of the Pakistani people and the opposition movement for the restoration of democracy has made big strides is by itself unlikely to deter the generals.

Ms. Benazir Bhutto's first reaction to Gen. Ziaul Haq's death has been intensely personal. Since he was the executioner of her father, her failure to express regret on his death is understandable. When, however, she says that "the shadow of fear" has now been lifted, she also has the political implication of Gen. Ziaul Haq's death in mind. What she means is that she really never believed that he would hold free and fair elections. But what makes her so sure that it will now be smooth sailing?

It is no secret that Ms Benazir Bhutto has set great store by the pressure in the US for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Apparently, she feels that it will be far easier for Washington to arm-twist the new regime without Gen. Ziaul Haq at its helm. If so, she reckons without the highly politicised Pakistani generals' skill in countering US pressure. They will, for instance, try to convince the US administration that political stability in Pakistan will be gravely jeopardised if there is a complete break with the existing power structure.

And it will be child's play for them to precipitate a situation to prove their point. They know that from the US strategic point of view, "stability" of the kind the army can impose will be more important than the restoration of democracy in the midst of unchecked turmoil.

As regards Pakistan's foreign relations, it is the Afghan situation which is likely to come under a close review in Islamabad following Gen. Ziaul Haq's death. It is clear that he nurtured the rebel alliance under the leadership of a fanatical Islamic faction not just with a view to strengthening the Afghan struggle for the withdrawal of Soviet troops. He also looked forward to a future Pak-Afghan tie-up with both countries led by Islamic ideologues. There are many in Pakistan who have openly questioned the advisability of such an embroilment with Afghanistan.

The civilian opponents of Gen. Ziaul Haq's Afghan policy were, of course, helpless. No one knows if any significant section in the military establishment also feels that Pakistan's best interests will be served by the Soviet withdrawal and it need not push too hard for an Afghan regime dominated by the intensely anti-Soviet fundamentalists. The issue is likely to come to the fore in Islamabad in one form or the other. Whether it will also have much to do with the emerging new power alignments in Pakistan is more than anyone can say at this stage.

Briefs

Trivandrum-Cochin TV Link

Microwave link between Trivandrum and Cochin enabling relay transmission of Doordarshan programs was commissioned this evening at Cochin by the vice president, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma. With this, half of the population of the [Kerala] State would be able to view Malyalam programs originating from Trivandrum. Speaking on the occasion, the vice president said that Doordarshan should be the main link in promoting unity and integrity of the nation. [Excerpt] [*BK2208044588 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 21 Aug 88*]

Iran

Velayati Cables UN Chief on Iraqi Intentions

LD2308113788 Tehran IRNA in English 1125 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a cable to the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar Tuesday, warned against "the Iraqi regime's intentions to launch military operations against Iran."

Velayati said in his letter to Perea de Cuellar that Iraq has assembled troops in the border region of Faqqeh (northwest of Ahvaz in Khuzestan Province) in the central front in violation of a ceasefire which went into effect at 0300 GMT Saturday.

The Iranian foreign minister also accused Baghdad of attempting to launch "a fresh military aggression" against the Islamic Republic in violation of the spirit of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for an end to the hostilities and which the two sides have officially accepted.

Velayati's letter calls on the U.N. secretary general to take "immediate and necessary measures" to stop Baghdad from further violating a truce which came after almost eight years of a bloody war between the two neighboring countries.

Iraqi forces fired ten rounds of small-calibre bullets in Naft-e Shahr area, western fronts on the first day of the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire last Saturday. The enemy shooting occurred in the presence of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG).

An Iranian official had also categorically denied Sunday Iraq's claim that Iranian forces had violated the ceasefire on the first day of its effect Saturday. "Not even a single bullet has been fired on Iraqi positions," he stressed.

Last Tuesday Foreign Minister Velayati sent a message to the U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, warning him of possible Iraqi military attacks on Iran. The message said there were indications that the Baghdad regime is intending to launch a series of military attacks against Iran.

Velayati in his message urged the U.N. chief and Security Council to take immediate measures to prevent the Iraqi regime from jeopardizing the organization's efforts to bring about a lasting peace in the region.

He called on Perez de Cuellar to keep the Islamic Republic abreast of the U.N. decisions and how Iran can cope with the Baghdad regime's serious threats to its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

UN Team Reports No Troop Movement Against Iraq

LD2308145588 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—Commander of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) in Iran Brigadier General Kelly today categorically refuted any movement by Iranian forces towards Iraqi territory.

Kelly in a message sent to his UNIIMOG counterpart in Baghdad stressed that so far no attack had been launched on the part of Iranian troops.

Meanwhile, a senior Iranian commander said that the act of the Iraqi forces in the presence of the U.N. forces reveals Iraq's blatant violation of the U.N.-sponsored ceasefire.

Jovic Describes Situation

LD2308221588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Aug 88

[News conference by Major General Slavko Jovic, commander of the United Nations forces supervising the cease-fire, on 23 August; place not specified—recorded]

[Text] In this news conference, referring to the steps taken by the UNIIMOG forces, General Slavko Jovic said: By patroling the region, these forces supervise all the borders. Since the start of the cease-fire, we have been faced with a number of problems which we are trying to solve with the cooperation of both sides. He added: The Iraqi forces have raised certain issues in the region which the UNIIMOG forces are trying to solve.

Also, the deputy commander of the UNIIMOG forces in Iran, speaking of the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with those forces, has said: So far we have received the best assistance from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The cooperation of Iran with the UNIIMOG forces has been very good and will continue.

In answer to a question about any movement by either side, General Slavko Jovic, the UNIIMOG commander, said: The UNIIMOG forces are fully prepared, and we will control and report any movement using our special techniques.

Concerning the number of UNIIMOG forces he said: Both the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq have the same number of forces, 750, and a number will join these forces in the future.

Regarding the implementation of various stages of the cease-fire, General Slavko Jovic, the UNIIMOG commander, said: The first stage, which was the cease-fire, was properly implemented, and the withdrawal of the forces to international borders will be carried out in the future.

In answer to a question about the implementation of the later stages of Security Council Resolution No 598, he said: These stages will be discussed at the Geneva conference.

In answer to a question on which areas of Iran are occupied by Iraqi forces and which areas of Iraq are under the control of the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the UNIIMOG commander said: At the moment one cannot answer this question.

Regarding the investigation into complaints from both sides, he said: We shall act using the good techniques at our disposal.

Khamene'i Inspects Arvand River Positions

LD2308170588 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Southern Operational Region, Aug. 23, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i currently inspecting positions, fortifications and troop-concentration sites of Muslim combatants visited the most sensitive water border of the country in Arvand River Tuesday morning.

During his almost four-hour visit to bunkers and positions of Basij [mobilization] and IRGC (Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps) forces, the president exhorted the Iranian Muslim combatants to be ready and vigilant.

Khamene'i who is also head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) visited water borders of Arvand River in Abadan region and confluence of Karun and Arvand River. The SDC head studying the array of Iraqi forces on the other side of the river gave necessary guidelines to the military commanders in the area.

In another visit, the president inspected various parts of the port city of Khorramshahr, Khuzestan Province which has been ruined by the enemy during the war.

Ceremony Held in Khomeyni's Presence
LD2308130988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] Dear listeners, a ceremony marking the anniversary of the martyrdom of the lord of the martyrs, His Holiness Husayn, son of 'Ali—peace be upon him—and 72 of his unique followers, was held in the presence of the imam of the ummah at his Jamaran residence today. The ceremony was also attended by a group of Jamaran inhabitants, members of Jamaran's committee and Guards Corps, and various strata of the people. Hojjat ol-Eslam Khowsari delivered a sermon in honor of the saints and the martyrs. [passage omitted]

UN Condemnation of Iraqi CW Use Expected
NC2408071988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] The publication of the UN experts' report on the continued use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime the day before the opening of the Geneva talks and the implementation of the second phase of Resolution No 598, has had an extensive impact on Western political and news circles. We draw your attention to our correspondent's report in this connection:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Next week, the UN Security Council will examine the resolution on the latest instance of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime against Iranian civilians. UN diplomatic sources believe that in view of the surprisingly strong tone of the report submitted last night by UN chemical experts regarding Iraq's actions in Oshnoviyeh, the proposed resolution condemning the Iraqi regime will be approved unanimously by all the UN Security Council members. In their report submitted to the UN secretary-general last night, the experts affirmed that during their recent visit to Iran and inspection of the city of Oshnoviyeh, they observed the use of mustard gas and chemical bombing by the Iraqi regime. They saw some children among the dead and wounded who were the victims of this international crime.

The UN experts' report submitted last night was immediately given prominent coverage in the radio and television newscasts as well as the newspapers of the West, and well-known commentators renewed their condemnation of the Iraqi atrocities. A European television commentator said last night that now there is no doubt that Iraq is the first country since World War I to have embarked on the overt use of chemical weapons against civilians, and not only against civilians of another country but those of its own country as well. It has not only used mustard gas—one of the most toxic gases—but nerve gas and cyanide also. This new confirmation of the use of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, on the eve of the Geneva talks which are scheduled to commence tomorrow morning in the second phase of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, is of immense importance. Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, London. [end recording]

Earthquake Registered Near Garmsar
LD2308150388 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 23, IRNA—A tremor measuring 3.8 on the Richter Scale shook an area near Garmsar, 100 kms southeast of Tehran Tuesday afternoon.

The seismological center of Tehran's Geophysics Institute registered the earthquake at 14:28 hours local time (10:58 GMT) Tuesday.

Two other tremors measuring 3.7 and 4.2 degrees on the Richter Scale shook areas 80 and 100 kms southeast of Tehran last night and this morning. no casualties and damage have been reported yet.

Pakistan

11 Afghan Refugees Killed in Mine Blast
BK2408031288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Aug 88

[Text] In Pakistan, 11 Afghan refugees were killed and 3 others injured in a landmine explosion yesterday. Officials said the blast occurred in Kurram area near the border with Afghanistan. All the victims, who were traveling in a truck, belonged to a single family.

BBC Reports Threat to Benazir Bhutto's Life
BK2408033088 London BBC World Service in English 0015 GMT 24 Aug 88

[From the "Radio Newsreel" program]

[Text] Now to Pakistan where the leading opposition politician, Benazir Bhutto, has had an armed police guard placed outside her house after reports that there could be an attempt on her life. The guard was posted after an intelligence tip-off, although there has been no disclosure of where the threat came from. George Arney reports from Islamabad:

[Begin recording] Four armed guards dressed in plain clothes were provided by the government on Tuesday afternoon to guard 70 Clifton, the high walled Bhutto

family residence in one of Karachi's wealthiest suburbs. A local journalist, who saw two of them, said they looked more like commandos of the special services group than ordinary police.

Benazir Bhutto confirmed that she was called by the Civilian Intelligence Bureau that it had received information of a possible attempt on her life. But she said that she would not be intimidated by threats. Intelligence officials have not said who might be planning to kill her.

In wake of the suspected assassination of General Ziaul Haq last week, Pakistani leaders fear that a deliberate effort may be underway to destabilize the country. The acting president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, said after General Ziaul Haq's funeral that the enemy, which he did not name, had penetrated the inner defenses of the country.

Benazir Bhutto herself appears to be more concerned with possible dangers to the restoration of full democracy in the country than with any external menace. She told a group of reporters on Tuesday that the biggest threat was posed by the provincial chief ministers who were installed in office by General Ziaul Haq after he dismissed the government at the end of May.

Describing them as the political vestiges of the Ziaul Haq regime, she alleged that they would do whatever they could to prevent the holding of free and fair elections in which they would use their power and privileges. [end recording]

Preliminary Investigation Into Ziaul Haq's Death

BK2308125888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] Preliminary investigations into the air crash in which President Ziaul Haq was killed have revealed that the door of the plane was repaired just before takeoff from Bahawalpur airport. They also suggest that the passengers might have been suffocated to death because of some gas leak. It is also revealed that two passengers jumped from the aircraft before it hit the ground. Their bodies have been recovered.

Justice Minister on Role of Ghulam Ishaq Khan

BK2408093988 Karachi DAWN in English 19 Aug 88 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 18—The Minister for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, said on Thursday [18 August] that Chairman, Senate, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, would be the Acting President of the country till the time a new President was elected by the assemblies after general elections on November 16.

Talking informally to newsmen, he dispelled the impression that Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan was to take oath as the President.

He clarified that Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan had taken oath as the Chairman, Senate, and under Article 49 of the Constitution was to act as President of the country till such time a new President was elected.

He said the new National Assembly emerging as result of the Nov 16 polls would elect the new President of the country. Thus no constitutional vacuum would be allowed to occur.

When asked if the law for holding the elections on non-party basis was still under formulation, he replied in affirmative. He said the law was still under consideration and preparation for it had not been given up. He, however, added that Mr Gulam Ishaq Khan was the new President and he could give a more definite answer in this regard.

Replying to a question, he said that main objective of the Emergency Council, set up by the Acting President in consent with the Federal Cabinet, was to closely monitor the country's situation.

Meanwhile, a notification issued here on Thursday said: "Upon the death of General M. Ziaul Haq, President of Pakistan, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Chairman of the Senate, has, in pursuance of Clause (1) of Article 49 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, started to act as President in the afternoon of August 17, 1988."

Senate To Hold 3-Week Session From 1 Sep

BK2308152788 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Text] A Senate session will be held on the 1st of next month to consider the situation following the death of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and other important national matters. This was stated by the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, in an interview in Islamabad today. He said the House will further debate the shari'a ordinance and discuss some reports of the Council of Islamic Ideology. The justice minister said the Senate session is likely to last for 3 weeks.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Says '90 Percent' of Peace Achieved

BK2308115788 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 23 Aug 88

[Excerpt] President Jayewardene said that the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord was signed to consolidate peace and harmony in the country. The president was speaking at the award ceremony of the poster and essay competition on Peace Through Unity. This competition was held by the Department of Information in association with the Ministry of Education. The president distributed the awards at the ceremony held at the John d'Silva Memorial Theater.

The president in his speech said those who oppose the agreement are against peace and harmony. If there is no peace or harmony in an institution, a group, or family, there will be no progress. Mr Jayewardene emphasized that those who seek political gain exhibit inhuman traits, are narrow-minded, and against peace. The president said that we have achieved about 90 percent of the peace hoped for from the accord.

Mr Jayewardene said that the Indian prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, asked him if they would sign this agreement to resolve the ethnic problem in the North and East. Mr Jayewardene recalled that there was peace throughout the country for a month after signing of the agreement. All the Tamil groups were in agreement with the accord until the LTTE expressed their opposition to it. Then all the problems started once again.

The president explained the decentralization of power proposed by former governments after independence. The only solution to the ethnic problem is the setting up of provincial councils. Everybody has agreed to this proposal except one group. [passage omitted]

7 IPKF Soldiers Injured by Explosive Device

BK2408114588 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1009 GMT 24 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 24 (LANKAPUVATH)—Seven IPKF soldiers were wounded by LTTE improvised explosive device (IED) blasts in northern Sri Lanka yesterday.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that five Indian soldiers were wounded in an IED explosion at Vannerikulam in Jaffna, while two were wounded in a similar explosion at Nithiakaikulam in the Wanni where two IEDs were located and destroyed by the Indian troops.

The sources said Indian troops captured 1 hardcore LTTE cadre [word indistinct] at Pandetherippu, the IPKF also apprehended 13 other terrorist suspects, two of them at Vakarai in Batticaloa and 11 at Myladdy and Mallakam.

The sources further said Indian troops seized two hand grenades at Kankesanthurai, one .303 rifle at Kiranchi and two hand grenades at Chundikuli. They also located and destroyed a booby trap and an IED in an area 1.5 km west of Puttur.

LTTE terrorists lobbed a hand grenade at an IPKF vehicle at Kankesanthurai yesterday. The grenade, however, did not explode. Unidentified assailants had stabbed and killed Satiyaseelan at Muttur in Trincomalee.

At Naidalnagar also in Muttur the decomposed body of Navaratnam Nallathamby was found. He had been hacked to death.

'Sharp Drop' in Security Force Casualties Noted

BK2308143788 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1126 GMT 23 Aug 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 23 August (LANKAPUVATH)—Latest security statistics show there has been a sharp drop in the number of Sri Lankan security force personnel killed in action in the North and East following the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) commencing operations against terrorists in these areas, after the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the number of Sri Lankan security force casualties had risen to over 1000 in 1987, with 354 of them being killed and 654 being wounded by terrorists. However, this dropped to 43 killed and 41 wounded in 1988.

A total of 942 Sri Lankan security force personnel have been killed and 1455 wounded from 1983 to date, whereas as many as 496 IPKF personnel were killed and 1414 wounded in the ten months of operations against the LTTE. This is more than what the Sri Lankan security forces ever lost in one year.

Giving details of the Sri Lankan security force losses, official sources said that 299 personnel were killed and 610 wounded from January to July 1987 while 55 were killed and wounded from August to December of 1987, after the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

They said that 18 security personnel were killed and 7 wounded in 1983, 95 killed and 75 wounded in 1984, 236 killed and 510 wounded in 1986, and 43 killed and 41 wounded in 1988, making it a total of 942 killed and 1455 wounded from 1983 to date.

In 177 incidents of landmine explosions, the Sri Lankan security forces list 510 killed and 572 wounded from 1983 to date.

The official sources said since July 1983 the Sri Lankan security forces were steadily losing men on the battle field and at the same time losing ground in the North and the East. The armed forces and the police who were engaged in the conflict were under terrific strain, convinced that, despite the fact that they had achieved success in several operations. It was a "no win" situation, as it was not possible to hold territory that was re-captured. Our security forces had to contend with a guerrilla force who had:

—A steady flow of arms and ammunition and explosives.

—A safe haven in south India for them to retreat to and re-group in the training grounds of south India where they could train in safety, undisturbed.

They said prior to the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord, subversive elements had engaged in propaganda focussing on the casualties suffered by Sri Lankan security forces and that the government was unnecessarily sacrificing the lives of Sinhala soldiers.

However, these same subversive elements have done a volte-face and are now trying to show that the government has sold out to India and the Eelamists [Tamil separatists] and betrayed the country.